

## Dutch M P succeeds Mme Veil

Mr Piet Dankert, a Dutch Socialist, was elected president of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. He succeeds Mme Simone Veil of France. Mr Dankert won 191 votes in the fourth round of voting, defeating Herr Egon Klepsch, a West German Christian Democrat, who received 174 votes.

## £1,000m job aid plan proposed

Government job creation schemes are not working according to a report by a study group funded by industry and social service agencies. The report suggests a £1,000m programme to provide work for all those aged between 16 and 19.

## Rise in London rate arrears

Rates arrears in London has shown a marked increase since the Law Lords' judgment in the Greater London Council fares case. The decision had undermined the credibility of the rating system, a council finance officer said.

## Nine die in India's strike

Indian police shot dead four men yesterday and five more were killed in widespread clashes between supporters and opponents of the country's first general strike. But support was generally patchy.

## Business today in a new form

Today *The Times* Business News appears in a new format designed to provide essential information in an easy-to-read style. On page 13 the main news is complemented by a full coverage of markets, currencies and key indicators. Company analysis has been expanded on page 14, and on page 15 a new Business Editor's columns gives the most authoritative assessment of the day's developments.

## Coca-Cola bids for film company

The Coca-Cola company is attempting to buy into the business by making a \$750m (£396.8m) offer for Columbia Pictures. Investment bankers met yesterday to work out details of the as yet unconfirmed agreement.

## Entry ban on polio victim

The Home Office has rejected an application by a Ugandan Asian polio victim to join his family in Britain, in spite of a doctor's report which says he is severely handicapped.

## Koivisto sweeps to victory

Mr Mauno Koivisto, the Social Democratic Prime Minister, won 145 votes in the 301-member Electoral College, which will appoint Finland's next President on January 26. His sweeping victory is seen as a turning point in Finnish politics.

## New worry for map-users

Map users from all over Britain are troubled that a government scheme to change the finance method of the Ordnance Survey could lead to fewer, less up-to-date maps of a lower standard.

## Egypt and Israel agree on Sinai

Egypt and Israel signed an agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The disposal of only two places remains to be settled—Rafah on the Mediterranean and Taba, a resort on the Gulf of Aqaba.

## New citizen

Rudolf Nureyev, the ballet star who left the Soviet Union 21 years ago, has been granted Austrian citizenship, the Vienna State Opera announced. Aged 42, he has been stateless since 1961.

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Letters: On Poland, from Mr Stephen Hastings, MP, and others; de la Tour in question, from Professor Michael Kison.  
Leading articles: Japanese surprises; Finland; Ordnance Survey.  
Features, pages 8, 10  
Why Britain needs a New Deal: the right to know what a computer has on you; Reagan is no Roosevelt; Obituary, page 12  
Mr Alec Robertson, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Herring, Mr Bernard Kirchner, Varlam Shalamov.

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# Whitelaw says blunders delayed arrest of Ripper

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

West Yorkshire police committed a major error of judgment in their hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper which prevented an earlier arrest of Peter Sutcliffe. That is one of the main conclusions of the review of the case carried out by Mr Lawrence Byford, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary, which was reported to the House of Commons yesterday by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

The review discloses errors and inefficiencies which had led to a quicker identification of Sutcliffe as a prime suspect. From those conclusions, Mr Whitelaw told the House, it was clear that some of the Ripper's victims would not have died if the errors had not been taken place and Sutcliffe had been arrested earlier.

Mr Whitelaw said that the report also showed that there were inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation at various levels and that excessive credence was given to letters and tapes from a man claiming responsibility for the murders and signing himself "Jack the Ripper".

Another serious handicap to the investigation was the ineffectiveness of the major incident room coordinating the hunt which became overloaded with unprocessed information. Pressed by MPs to say what had happened to the various senior officers of the West Yorkshire force involved in the case, Mr Whitelaw said that the Chief Constable was not being removed from his office although there were certain officers in the force whom Mr Whitelaw would not agree should be promoted to Assistant Chief Constable.

He reminded the House that the Ripper case gave rise to the largest criminal investigation ever conducted in this country, imposing a great strain on all concerned. It would have been surprising if, in this unprecedented situation, there were no mistakes.

Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said he would not be removed.

He had the power to take the drastic step of removing the Chief Constable, who was operationally responsible for the whole force, only if he was satisfied that to do so would be in the interests of efficiency. He would have to be satisfied on this, having regard to the general performance of the force as a whole over a period of time. The Home Secretary added that he was not so satisfied.

Mr Clifford Rose, British Rail's board member for industrial relations, left the Acas offices for more than three hours to attend a board meeting during which the management "reaffirmed its determination to achieve the programme of specific productivity improvements including flexible rostering."

Mr Whitelaw assured the House that the West Yorkshire County Council, the local police authority and all concerned were responding to ensure that future crime investigations such as this were carried out as effectively and as quickly as possible.

Mr Byford's recommendations, which he welcomed and which were already being followed up, dealt with the management requirements of the investigation of a series of major crimes, the training of senior detectives and personnel working in major incident rooms and the command of investigations involving a number of crimes which crossed force boundaries.

Mr Byford's proposals also included the harnessing for such investigations of the best detective and forensic science skills in the country backed up by the use of computers. The review makes clear that insufficient attention was given to the significant common elements in photo-fit impressions obtained from surviving victims of hammer assaults or assaults involving serious head injuries on unaccompanied women.

The Inspector suggests that the Home Office should provide Chief Constables with guidance in the use of computers in a crime investigation. He said that an advisory team should be set up by the Chief Inspector of Constabulary to harness the best talents available in the country and to identify at an early stage cases in which these talents should be employed.

From the Labour front bench, Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, said the case had been distressing and odious, and added that the review showed that a large number of senior officers proved incapable of the efficient discharge of their duties.

Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said last night: "The findings of this report are similar to those already identified by our internal inquiry and I can say little different to what I have already said." (Our Bradford Correspondent writes).

Mr Gregory added: "I have already accepted that there were errors of judgment, errors which are not now difficult to see, but when the investigation was current they were much less obvious."

The enormity of the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry has left its mark on the West Yorkshire police, but we will be better equipped in the future. Our methods of investigation and training will be reviewed, and no doubt the police service will learn from our experience."

Peter Sutcliffe is serving life imprisonment in Parkhurst jail on the Isle of Wight for the murder of 13 women. He is appealing against conviction and sentence.

Mr John Sutcliffe, aged 56, Peter Sutcliffe's father, said last night: "I have every sympathy with the police. Obviously I would have liked my son to have been caught earlier and lives saved. The police will have learned their lessons and I just hope they do not have to face anything like this again."

Parliamentary report, page 4



Gormley survives left wing censure motion on betrayal charge

Mr Joe Gormley (left) and Mr Arthur Scargill, his successor as president of the National Union of Mineworkers, who were present during heated exchanges between left and right when the executive committee

met yesterday to discuss the outcome of the 40 per cent pay ballot. Mr Scargill's militant Yorkshire miners conceded that the results, due to be announced tomorrow, had rejected the strike call, but their motion of censure

condemning Mr Gormley's "betrayal" was passed by 13 votes to 12. (Full report, page 2).

## Rape case victim said she was prepared to give evidence

By David Hewson

A rape victim whose three alleged attackers are not being prosecuted said yesterday that she had always been prepared to give evidence in court.

The woman, aged 30, was speaking for the first time since it was announced that three teenagers would not stand trial for rape and attempted murder because psychiatrists said she would suffer permanent mental damage if forced to give evidence.

Her statement and reports that the prosecution had a detailed case against the three youths, including a signed confession, has led to renewed calls for an inquiry into the case.

The woman was savagely slashed with a razor during the attack and needed 168 stitches. In September, psychiatrists said she should not give evidence and the case was dropped. Under section 1 of the three teenagers cannot face the charges again.

But yesterday the woman said at her home in East Glasgow that the first she knew of the dropping of the charges was when she read the newspapers.

"I did not decide not to give evidence. I was prepared to go through with it. I want them put away for what they have done."

The Scottish Daily Record newspaper yesterday published what it claimed were extracts from an alleged confession by one of the youths. Both Strathclyde police and the Edinburgh Crown Office refused to confirm the authenticity of the extracts, but independent inquiries have confirmed that they are accurate.

It is now clear that when the Crown Office decided to drop the charges it was in possession of the confession.

An alleged voluntary confession in which one of the youths described raping the woman, slashing her with a razor, and running away with his hands covered in blood.

The Crown witness originally charged in connection with the attack, who had made an alleged voluntary statement to police in which he said he saw two of the youths have intercourse with the woman.

## Judge praises police in Tottenham case

Steven Prendergast, who became known as the Tottenham rapist, was committed to Broadmoor special hospital for an indefinite period at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. He admitted raping 11 women and the attempted rape of a twelfth. The judge commended the police operation that caught Prendergast, but "Women against Rape" said it was outrageous that the police had responded with a special inquiry only after 10 attacks had taken place. Neither had the series of rapes been publicized in its early stages, to alert women to the danger.

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## Predatory attitudes, page 8

Incriminating evidence including blood samples from the youths' clothing which matched the raped woman's blood type. Mr David Marshall, Labour MP for Glasgow Shettleston, said last night that the latest revelations made the decision not to prosecute even more incredible. Mr Marshall has called for an inquiry into the handling of the case and a statement is expected from the Lord Advocate of Scotland early next week.

The woman said the attack happened when she went out for a drink after an argument with her boyfriend. As she made her way home, two youths asked her for a light. She was then hit on the head and dragged into a hut in a scrapyard.

"All I can remember is the glint of a blade. I thought it was a knife, but the police told me later it was a razor. When I came to, I was in this hut and a young boy was over me with the blade. I remember saying to him: 'You don't need to do that'. But that is all I remember. Then I remember coming to, naked from the waist up."

Getting hit over the head probably saved me from a worse ordeal, because I didn't even know I had been raped. The police told me I had been raped."

After her two-hour ordeal, she ran back to her boyfriend's flat, but could get no reply.

She said that when the case first came to court it was delayed, but she was still prepared to go through with it. She denied fleeing to England to escape giving evidence. She said she did go south, but was always prepared to return. "Of course I was frightened, but I was prepared to give evidence."

## US warns Poland of tougher sanctions

From Nicholas Ashford  
Washington, Jan 19

President Reagan today indicated that his Administration was prepared to take steeper steps against the Soviet Union and Poland if there was no improvement in the Polish crisis.

Addressing the seventh press conference of his Administration and the first during 1982, the President said that American sanctions already imposed against the Soviet and Polish Governments had made some impression. But he said: "We're not going to wait forever for improvement in the situation there. We have other steps that we can take."

When President Reagan unveiled his seven-point sanctions programme against the Soviet Union at the end of last year he said that the United States would take additional steps if there was no sign of any relaxation in the martial law crackdown in Poland.

There was no question that the situation in Poland was continuing to deteriorate, the President said. "The [the Polish Government] have tried to present it as moderating. It isn't. The people are still imprisoned. There is no communication with Solidarity [the independent union movement] or between the military Government and the people and the military law is still in effect."

The President added that the Pope, with whom he had recently been in lengthy communication, had expressed his approval of the steps taken.

Reagan's race blunder, page 6

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Reagan's race blunder, page 6

## Gill looks unlikely to get record £560,000

By Philip Robinson  
and Paul Maitland

It looks almost certain that Mr Jack Gill, Lord Grade's former right hand man, will fail to get his record £560,000 golden handshake after an unsuccessful High Court attempt yesterday to block share sales by those who promised to support him.

Mr Gill was dismissed by Associated Communications Corporation last September but since then, Lord Grade has been toppled by Mr Robert Holmes a Court who is making a £50m takeover bid for the company.

The Australian financier has now joined 10 of ACC's institutional shareholders led by the Post Office pension fund in opposing the size of Mr Gill's pay off.

This means that ACC is no longer defending the action of Mr Gill's payment and Mr Gill will be left to put up his own defence.

Even if the Post Office loses its action, by the time it comes before the court, ACC is almost certain to be in the hands of Mr Holmes a Court who has gone on record as wanting to enfranchise the 54 million non-voting shares of which he now owns more than half.

Mr Gill refused to grant Mr Gill orders preventing the share sales, and instead, accepted undertakings that the directors who agreed to support him could use their votes only to adjourn a meeting called to approve the pay-off, pending the outcome of the Post Office's petition.

Full report, page 13

## Rail shutdown as talks break up

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

After more than ten hours the talks at ACAS on the rail dispute broke up inconclusively last night, with no prospects of an immediate settlement in sight. A statement said that ACAS had adjourned the talks to allow for further consideration. "We shall be in touch with the parties again tomorrow, but there are no plans for specific meetings until then."

Meanwhile, the railway network was closed from midnight for the fourth day in the past week. Talks were being held at the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service with Mr Pat Lowry, the Acas chairman, acting as a go-between for the union leaders and British Rail officials.

The talks were held at the Midway through the talks Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, arrived to try to resolve big differences between the three unions who were said to be arguing among themselves.

Mr Clifford Rose, British Rail's board member for industrial relations, left the Acas offices for more than three hours to attend a board meeting during which the management "reaffirmed its determination to achieve the programme of specific productivity improvements including flexible rostering."

Neither union leaders, BR management or Acas officials were very hopeful that the talks could find a solution to the deepening crisis. BR has refused to pay 20,000

train drivers a 3 per cent increase, the second stage of an 11 per cent deal from last August, because their union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) has refused to agree to the new rostering proposals.

Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef general secretary, was given authority to attend the talks by his executive yesterday morning and members of the executive were standing by last night.

Aslef was coming under strong pressure from the other two rail unions, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, to move away from its insistence that the standard eight-hour working day should be maintained. Those unions have accepted the principle of flexible rostering and it appeared that all the longstanding rivalries between the NUR and Aslef were again coming into the open.

British Rail is to have a

## Military ready for trouble as Polish food prices soar

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 19

The Polish authorities have decided to go ahead with a drastic round of food price increases, while acknowledging that there are grave shortages of meat, poultry and grain. This combination of price rises with severe shortages has proved to be politically explosive in the past and is one reason why martial law will be maintained for some time to come.

According to the official news agency PAP, the proposed food price rises of about 200 to 400 per cent will be introduced on February 1. All those entitled to ration cards will receive a "compensatory" wage increase of 750 zlotys a month and miners who have specially large ration entitlements will receive a 1,400 zloty increase. But at the same time the official press has acknowledged that the amount of meat and poultry purchased for slaughter will drop by 180,000 tonnes—that is by about 40 per cent—in the first quarter of the year compared to the same period last year.

What this adds up to is that the Polish housewife will be paying double or quadruple for her meat and other foodstuffs in two weeks' time. Meanwhile, shortages will place further pressure on her budget ensuring that food on private markets becomes even more expensive than the official foodstuffs, that queues get longer and longer and that families will have to go with-

out even the meat that is guaranteed to them under the ration system.

In the past, such measures have been sufficient to send angry Poles out on to the streets, storming Communist party headquarters. In 1970, Mr Wladyslaw Gomulka was toppled from the party leadership after riots over food price increases. In 1976, the regime of his successor, Mr Edward Giersek, came dangerously close to falling because of similar trouble.

The Government economic commission has admitted that the increases "are unlikely to be popular," which is the nearest any official body has come to admitting the prospect of unrest.



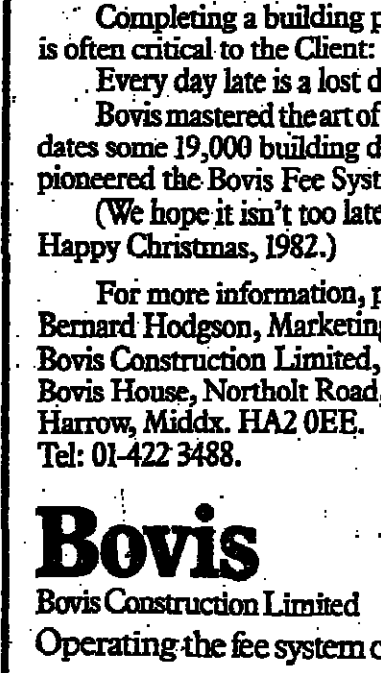
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# Gormley beats censure by only one vote

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Mr Joseph Gormley, moderate president of the National Union of Mineworkers, survived a left-wing censure move by a single vote yesterday as militant coalfield leaders finally conceded defeat in their efforts to mount an all-out pit strike this winter.

In a meeting that almost degenerated into violence, the executive committee of the union voted 13 to 12 against a Yorkshire area move to censure the "colliers' veteran" leader for alleged betrayal of the union in a newspaper article advising rejection of the vote for possible strike action.

During a heated two-hour-long exchange between militants and moderates on the executive, Mr Jack Jones, right-wing leader of the Leicestershire coalfield, brandished a water can across the table at Mr George Rees, the Communist secretary of the Welsh miners. Mr Rees lost his glasses as he rose in response, but Mr Gormley quickly restored order.

Ironically, the scene was not prompted by the argument over Mr Gormley's eye-poll intervention, but by sharp rejoinders over the conduct of a special delegate conference chaired by Mr Michael McGahey, the union's Communist vice-president, before Christmas.

Leicestershire miners, among others, objected to Mr McGahey's decision to permit several hundred miners lobbying the conference into the policy-making session. Mr Gormley eventually ruled that in future conferences of this kind neither the press nor coalfield pickets should be allowed in. When they got down to the equally-controversial issue of his article in the *Daily Express*,

the executive had before it a number of written complaints.

Yorkshire miners took the initiative in tabling a vote of censure, with Mr Owen Briscoe, area secretary, leading the charge, seconded by Mr Frank Gormley of the Scottish colliers, who had demanded the president's resignation. Some moderates spoke against Mr Gormley's stand, including Mr Chadburn of Nottinghamshire.

But in a counter move, Mr Tom Barle of the Durham mechanics tabled an amendment to the censure motion proposing that the coalfield complaints be "noted".

The mechanics' amendment, seconded by right-wing presidential runner-up Mr Trevor Bell of the white-collar COGA group, went through by 13-12, and the Yorkshire censure move therefore fell.

Afterwards, an unrepentant Mr Gormley said: "I didn't even speak. I did not even need to give a reason why I wrote the article. Why should I tell myself I am a sell-out?"

The militants have now accepted defeat this time round. Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire area leader and national president-elect, said: "It would appear from informal reports that the 50 per cent majority to authorize strike action is not going to be attained."

In spite of yesterday's excitement over the president's refusal to resign, underlying pay issues are still unresolved. The pitched battle result is not due to be officially declared until tomorrow, after the count of votes cast in South Wales. It is now virtually certain that the union's executive will next Tuesday signify to the coalfield its acceptance of the 9.5 per cent wage offer.

# Hattersley attacks Rodgers on TV remark

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

A statement by Mr William Rodgers that the Social Democrat Liberal alliance would be prepared to join with the Conservatives in a coalition government after the next election brought an accusation last night from Mr Roy Hattersley that the SDP would clobber a majority with anyone who would give them power.

The remark, appearing in the BBC television programme *Taking Issue* which had been recorded on Monday, was a surprise. Mr Hattersley drew attention to Mr Rodgers' remarks by putting out a statement during the day saying: "It would be unfortunate if, because of the late hour at which the programme is broadcast, Mr Rodgers' willingness, indeed enthusiasm, for forming such a coalition did not receive the publicity it deserves."

Mr Hattersley's action caused some surprise among Mr Rodgers' colleagues in the SDP who felt that he had said nothing sensational.

On the programme Mr Hattersley asked Mr Rodgers whether, if the alliance held 30 per cent of the seats after the next election, it would go into an alliance with the Tories.

Mr Rodgers replied: "We would go into an alliance if it was necessary with whatever party we might need to support those policies which we were committed to and which were desperately important to the country."

Describing Mr Hattersley's jibe about the SDP being prepared to clobber a majority with anyone as nonsense, and as "talking the old politics", Mr Rodgers said that if the next Parliament produced a fairly even balance between the three parties it would be common sense to look for a minimum common programme on economic and industrial policy and to try to get together.

Mr Rodgers' remarks were taken up by Mr Hattersley, who said that the SDP was not going to be a "coalition partner" with the Tories.

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# The Tottenham rapist sent to Broadmoor

By Frances Gibb

A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday praised police efforts to catch a man known as the Tottenham rapist, who pleaded guilty to raping 11 women at knifepoint and to attempting to rape a twelfth.

Committing Steven Prendergast, aged 22, to Broadmoor special hospital for an indefinite period, Judge Edward Scurr, QC, referred to the television programme, *Police*, in which a woman alleging rape was interrogated. "I hope this police operation was as much publicity as the other side of it which some of us saw on television last night," the judge said. "Perhaps this will deter others."

But his remarks provoked an immediate response from the group Women Against Rape, which condemned the police for delay in mounting a concerted hunt for the rapist and in publicising the attacks. Local newspapers did not carry reports until after the sixth rape, because, they said, the police felt publicity would hamper the search.

The court was told yesterday that police mounted a special operation in June last year, after the tenth attack. The operation involved 35 officers working every night and using police dogs to search for the rapist.

Prendergast was caught after the eleventh victim, a girl of 18 who had asked him the way, broke free after being raped, bound and gagged, and ran for help to a car containing two men. They turned out to be police officers.

The judge, who committed Prendergast to Broadmoor under section 53 of the Mental Health Act after hearing he was suffering from an "endogenous depressive illness of considerable severity," said the horror of the story spoke for itself.

The rapes ran to a pattern, the court was told. They occurred between April 1980 and June 1981, and all but one were within a mile of Prendergast's home, itself only 500 yards from Tottenham police station.

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said that the women, aged between 17 and 32, were attacked usually when they were in their front gardens, about to let themselves into their homes.

Prendergast would approach on a pretext, such as asking the time, then put his hand over their mouths, threatening them with a knife (a different one was used on each occasion). He would force them into an alleyway or garden near by and rape them at knifepoint.

Often their husbands or boy friends were close at hand in the house but he threatened to kill the women if they made a sound. He told them he had had their home address from a newspaper and he would kill them.

Prendergast would rob them of what money they had, Mrs Mills said.

In the later rapes, he took with him tape and string with a view to tying his victims.

The women were usually on their way home after visiting friends or working late; one was on her way to a friend's house. He then broke down, the court was told, saying: "When you have had that done to you all your pride is gone [referring to the women]."



Steve Prendergast and the police Photofit

Prendergast threw away the knife he had used. He was arrested with a 10-inch knife which the police said was his mother's favourite kitchen knife. He would also change his headwear by way of disguise.

After his arrest he denied the previous rapes for two days. He then broke down, the court was told, saying: "When you have had that done to you all your pride is gone [referring to the women]."

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# Science report

# Force-field 'leap' aids earthquake prediction

By the Staff of "Nature"

The strength of the Earth's magnetic field in a region of Uzbekistan took a sudden leap followed by a plunge shortly before an earthquake there on November 2, 1979. The leap was more than 100 per cent greater than any other recorded before an earthquake. Indeed, the two Soviet scientists who made the measurements claim to have used it to predict the earthquake six hours before it happened.

Measurements in local magnetic field are expected prior to earthquakes because the magnetic field is known to be greater than any other recorded before an earthquake. Indeed, the two Soviet scientists who made the measurements claim to have used it to predict the earthquake six hours before it happened.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Inquiry into fake Army test passes

The Ministry of Defence is investigating an Army racket which may have put more than 3,000 lorry drivers on the road without taking a proper heavy goods vehicle test or having a medical check.

Senior officers are known to have obtained HGV licences without taking tests before they left the Army. At Caterick camp, North Yorkshire, Ministry of Defence police are checking 8,000 pass certificates after a sergeant examiner admitted illegally distributing more than 200 in 1980.

Sergeant Henry Billings, aged 34, of the Queen's Own Hussars was given a six-month jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, and fined £500 after admitting five specimen deception charges at Teesside Crown Court yesterday.

Billings charged candidates for tests, which makes them invalid, and often did not even test them before issuing a pass certificate. He gave HGV licences to army friends and to Colin McCamley, a civilian driving instructor who sent him 20 test candidates.

McCamley, aged 34, of Colburn Lane, Caterick, admitted seven specimen deception charges. He was given a three-month jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, and fined £600.

### Fans jailed for attack

Three Scottish football supporters who gave women at a convention "a dreadful thrashing" were jailed by Nottingham Crown Court yesterday. Sentence was deferred on a fourth convicted of making an anti-gay celebration, Scotland's win over England at Wembley last May.

The court was told that Robert Thomson, aged 45, his son Gary, aged 19, and brother James, aged 36, all of Arkwright Walk, Nottingham, and James Palmer, aged 29, of Lockview Court, Edinburgh, attacked the women at Queens Walk Community Centre, Nottingham, where they were holding a "right to work" conference, because they thought they were lesbians.

Robert Thomson was jailed for 12 months, James Thomson for six months and Palmer for four months. Sentence on Gary Thomson was deferred for four months.

### Ex-undercover agent barred

Mr Ted Ratnoff, a former United States undercover agent, who spent 18 months in an Austrian prison after being convicted of fraud, was refused entry into Britain by immigration authorities at Heathrow yesterday and put on a British Airways flight to Vienna.

Mr Ratnoff, aged 42, was deported from Innsbruck last Thursday and flown to Frankfurt. He arrived in London, where he was arrested, on Friday, saying he did not want to return to the United States. The Home Office said Mr Ratnoff was refused entry because his documents gave him only the status of a visitor.

### Foot find starts police hunt

West Yorkshire police were searching yesterday for evidence to explain the discovery of a decomposed human left foot in a sock, near the River Calder, at Stanley Bottom, Wakefield.

Divers searched the river at Stanley Ferry near by, and 45 officers, some with dogs, combed the land while police files were checked.

The foot was found by a man walking his dog about 200 yards from the river near a sewage works between the Wakefield to Aberford road on Sunday.

### School asks parents to pay for books

Parents of the 1,200 pupils at Weymouth Grammar School, Dorset, are being asked to make covenants of up to £50 a pupil a year because Mr Patrick Nobes, the head, says the local education authority is not allowing sufficient money for basic needs. He says some text books are falling to bits after 15 years' use, and desks and chairs are in need of repair.

### Appeal for more cash to restore minster

Restoration work on Beverley Minster, Humberside, will not resume in April unless £60,000 is raised in three months, Lord Middleton, president of the minster's restoration appeal committee, said yesterday. A new appeal for an extra £200,000 on top of the £700,000 raised since 1976, has been launched.

### Thatcher club debt

Grantham football club, Lincolnshire, of which Mrs Margaret Thatcher is president, may go into liquidation because of debts totalling £22,000. Supporters have given £5,000.

## £1,000m project to aid young jobless urged

By Tony Samstag

Youth unemployment is causing intolerable harm to British society and existing job creation schemes are not working, according to a report published today by Jobs in the 80's, an independent study group financed by several industries and social service agencies.

Mr Bob Tyrrell, the report's author, says temporary schemes such as the Youth Opportunity Programmes should be replaced by a £1,000m national two-year bridge programme between school and work for all those aged 16 to 19 not in formal education or employment, would cost 25 per cent more than keeping the same 700,000 young people unemployed.

The scheme would concentrate on further education rather than training in job skills that may be in declining demand. From sports, art appreciation and do-it-yourself skills to running a small business or community service work, the bridge programmes would seek to remedy shortcomings that are clearing felt to be as much educational as economic.

Nearly two-fifths of all the unemployed in the United Kingdom are aged between 16 and 24. Youth Opportunity Programmes and supplementary benefits for those aged 16 to 19 cost about £800m a year. "To this must be added the indirect costs arising from a high crime rate and other social evils among

## Thousands withhold rates after ruling

By David Walker

Hundreds of thousands of householders and firms have been encouraged to withhold or delay their rate payments by the law lords' judgment in the Greater London Council fares case.

This result, of an informal survey of London boroughs by The Times, reinforces the verdict of one outer London council finance officer that the case has done more than anything else to destroy the credibility of the rating system.

End-of-year rates arrears have grown significantly in recent years and could reach a peak in London, the West Midlands and several Merseyside districts, this March.

It seems likely that the 5 per cent of rates income usually collected by the end of the financial year will rise to 7 per cent or more. Since summonses for unpaid rates are often lodged after the financial year ends, 1982-83 may well see an unprecedented volume of legal action by councils against ratepayers.

Rates arrears have grown because councils delayed their financial reminders and the GLC case went through the courts.

Mr Daniel Regan, director of finance of Tower Hamlets council, blamed reticence in taking legal action against rates defaulters for arrears that have soared to £2.7m, compared with £1.7m last year.

In Croydon, arrears could be £1m more than 1981's £850,000. Arrears in Islington were blamed on the council's inability to send out summonses in November because the GLC's supplementary rate had made collection so complex.

The confusion surrounding London's local government finance remains in spite of last week's GLC meeting, which decided to double rates and end the supplementary rate, and Monday's House of Commons announcement by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, that £60m in grant penalty is to be restored to London.

The picture is clearer in outer London, where the Education Authority do not complicate calculations. Ratepayers in Bromley have few difficulties as the council, which successfully chal-

### Cheap fares precept legal, councils say

Some councils in the West Midlands still feel that the supplementary rate levied to pay for cheap bus and train fares was legal, even though the county council has decided to abandon its £56m public transport subsidy after taking counsel's advice (Arthur Osman writes).

Ratepayers seem unlikely to receive a rebate, which would be costly and complex, but district councils are expected to deduct £2m, 3p and 4p in the pound from the next demand. The low fares represented 5p of the 14p supplementary rate, including the cost of losing £2m in government grants.

## New Rover 2000's economy appeal

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

BL has reintroduced a Rover 2000 after a gap of nearly nine years in an attempt to reverse a steady decline in sales. Only 21,500 Rovers were sold in Britain last year, compared with 31,580 in 1978.

Like most of its rivals in the so-called "executive" sector, the Rover has suffered as customers have turned towards smaller cars in the search for better fuel economy.

The new 2000, which uses BL's two litre O Series engine, will be one of the most economical models in its class, giving 42.6 miles per gallon at 56 mph, 23.9 mpg in town driving and 32.8 mpg at 75 mph.

BL forecasts that the 2000 could eventually account for up to a quarter of all Rover sales. It is hoping to sell 25,000 Rovers in Britain and 7,500 on the Continent this year, against combined sales of 27,500 in 1981.

The bigger-engined 2300, 2500 and 3500 models continue and there are improvements throughout the range, including a move to 12,000-mile, instead of 6,000-mile, service intervals.

BL claims that less frequent servicing will help to make the Rovers the cheapest cars to maintain in the executive class. More than 50,000 miles, or four years, service costs for the 2000 will be £236, against £287 for the Ford Granada and £511 for the Volvo 244.

The other main changes include a deeper rear window and wash/wipe system for the tailgate, new instrument panel, more head and leg-room in the front seat and a return, on the more expensive versions, of walnut veneer trim.

The 2000 costs £7,450, the same as the previous 2300, and all other prices have



The Prince of Wales greets Paul Ringer, a former Welsh rugby international, who has been a driver attached to the blizzard emergency centre in Cardiff.

## Prince surveys blizzard damage in Wales

The Prince of Wales interrupted his holiday yesterday to visit Wales and see for himself the havoc wrought by the worst blizzards in living memory (Tim Jones, writes from Cardiff). But his plans to pay unscheduled calls on badly affected farming communities had to be curtailed as low cloud and rain thwarted his plans for a helicopter flight.

In Cardiff, the Prince visited Mr and Mrs Oddie Swift whose home had partly collapsed under the weight of the snow. Mrs Swift was given only 30 minutes, warning of the call, and as the Prince walked into her damp and damaged terrace house she greeted him in her slippers still disbelieving the evidence of her eyes.

The Prince told reporters outside the house that his Highgrove estate had also suffered from the weather when a tank had burst, damaging a ceiling in a lodge. At

the offices of south Glamorgan County Council, he spoke to staff who had manned the emergency operations room, which handled more than 10,000 calls.

At Wenvoe, outside Cardiff, the Prince walked among wrecked greenhouses belonging to Mr Len Jones, a market gardener, who estimated the damage at £25,000. The Prince said: "We have had drought. We have had snow. It will probably be a hurricane next."

The Prince's visit ended at Carmarthen, which was cut off for two days after the blizzards.

Three sheep were found alive yesterday after being buried in a 15ft snowdrift for 12 days (the Press Association reports). They were in a flock owned by Mr Richard Whiteman, of Buckland, near Evesham, in the Cotswold Hills.

Mr Whiteman found them huddled in a cavity in the snow. He

said: "They were tiny, weak and hungry, but otherwise quite well. Even more extraordinary is that the sheep are due to have lambs in three weeks."

Driving conditions in Britain were much improved yesterday, the RAC said. Fog affected a few areas and there was ice in Essex.

Thick fog reduced visibility to 10 yards in parts of Tyne Tees, and in Wales a sleet drizzle saw off what remained of the snow.

The RAC has written to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, expressing concern at the damage done by the weather to Britain's roads. The organization said yesterday that many roads need repairs.

Cumbria County Council expects to be overspent by £800,000 on its winter road maintenance budget, and Suffolk County Council faces a £3m road bill because of the weather.

## Gum 'aids smokers to stop'

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The use of nicotine chewing gum can double a smoker's chances of successfully giving up tobacco, Dr Michael Russell, consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital, London, said yesterday.

Dr Russell, who runs a clinic for smokers at the hospital for the past 10 years, said that simple support and encouragement from a clinic would result in about 15 to 20 per cent of smokers giving up and remaining off cigarettes for at least a year.

In two trials conducted with nicotine chewing gum, however, success rates had gone up to about 40 per cent. The first trial of 69 smokers had resulted in a 38 per cent success rate at one year and the second involving 115 smokers had resulted in a 45 per cent success rate.

Patients who had been given a chewing gum with no nicotine as a placebo had only 12 per cent success rate.

Dr Russell was speaking at a press conference in London organized by Lundbeck Ltd, which markets a nicotine chewing gum.

The gum, which is available only on private prescription, costs between £6 and £8.50 for a pack of 105, and lasts between a week and 10 days. Smokers are encouraged to go on taking it for two to three months to prevent relapse. A full course of treatment, therefore, costs about £50.

Dr Russell said he hoped that it would soon become available on the National Health Service.

Dr Russell admitted that one in 10 of smokers at his clinic did have trouble stopping using the chewing gum itself.

## Decline in teaching of arts condemned

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Alarm about the position of the arts in schools has been expressed by Mr Peter Brinson, United Kingdom director of the Gulbenkian Foundation and chairman of a foundation committee of inquiry into the arts in schools, whose report was published yesterday.

The committee, largely consisting of educationalists in the arts field, believes that provision for the arts in schools is facing serious deterioration not only because of cuts in public expenditure and the effects of falling pupil numbers, but because of demands for greater educational accountability and increasing emphasis on both the pursuit of academic excellence and the "basics" as preparation for employment.

It argues that the arts, including dance, drama, music, the visual arts, poetry and literature, have an essential place in the balanced education of all children, and expresses regret that they have received so little attention in recent reports on the school curriculum by the Government, the schools inspectorate and the Schools Council.

The committee endorsed the principle of education accountability, but did not believe that examinations with competitive grades or marks were always an appropriate way of assessing pupils' performance in arts. It would prefer to see the introduction of alternative assessment techniques, such as profiles giving descriptive accounts of a pupil's work.

The committee was concerned about the cycle of indifference on attitudes towards the arts in schools. Many administrators, teachers and parents had had indifferent experiences of the arts while they were at school and so failed to see their value, with the result that there was little pressure to improve provision.

Work in the arts in many primary schools was disappearing. Sometimes teachers' expectations of pupils were too low and the work lacked direction; at other times, the work was over-directed, and pupils were given little room to exercise their creative powers.

The committee did not share the view of the advocates of completely free expression, but pupils needed to be encouraged to test ideas that were novel, or even eccentric and unconventional. The teacher's role was to strike a balance.

Society needed and valued abilities other than academic. "The arts exemplify some of these other capacities; of intuition, creativity, sensitivity and practical skills. We maintain that an education in these is quite as important for all children as an education of the more academic kind, and that not to have this is to stunt and distort their growth as intelligent, feeling and capable individuals."

"We are not arguing against the pursuit of academic excellence. We are arguing that the level of concern with this in schools is misguided, wasteful and unjustified; socially, educationally and economically."

On spending cuts, the situation was "bleak and becoming bleaker." Music in particular was getting savage treatment.

Spending in the arts had never been prodigious. The danger was that the cuts, which might make small savings within the total education budget, would devastate the provision for arts.

## Bomb men told to put lives first

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Home Secretary has disclosed that bomb squad and police explosives officers are told to put their own lives above the protection of property.

The stark choice was originally raised in Commons by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, after the death of Mr Kenneth Howarth, a Metropolitan Police explosives officer, at a Wimpy bar in Oxford Street on October 26.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said at the time: "Why is it necessary to insist on defusing such devices, thereby risking the lives of brave men, when the only danger is to property?"

The Home Secretary seemed to be thrown by the question, and said that he would discuss the matter with the police commissioner.

Mr Whitelaw now says in a letter to the MP: "The commissioner has told me that the general instructions relating to this work are framed in such a way as to ensure firstly the safety and protection of persons, whether members of the public or explosives officers, rather than the protection of property."

It was left to the discretion of the officer on the scene to decide on the best course of action within general instructions.

"This seems to me to be the only sensible way in which to approach this highly dangerous and demanding task," Mr Whitelaw adds.

On the Oxford Street bombing, Mr Whitelaw explained: "The commissioner has confirmed that when Mr Howarth tackled the bomb in the Wimpy bar, there was a danger to life as well as to property."

## Deer park turf may hide oldest village

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A wooden building found under turf on one of England's largest deer parks, at Tatton Park, Cheshire, may be more than 4,000 years old. If tests substantiated, the age of the park would have one of the oldest village sites in England. Dr Nicholas Higham, leader of the excavation team from Manchester University, said: "It will become a site of national, if not international, importance."

The site, in one of the largest landscaped parks in England, now belongs to the National Trust after centuries as a private landed estate. When the park was created more than 200 years ago, the hamlet on the site was demolished and the inhabitants moved.

Documents enable the history of the hamlet of Tatton to be traced back as far as the Domesday survey of the eleventh century, but excavation of the past has shown it to be much older.

Dr Higham said that when the team examined traces of a wooden building about a foot below the ground they found that its shape suggested it was Saxon, about 1,000 years old.

Preliminary carbon dating has been carried out by scientists at the research establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire. However, charcoal deposits from several parts of the site had to be mixed to make a sample large enough for present techniques and a new method of assessing very small samples will be used to test the accuracy of the results.

A wooden building at Tatton Park in 2,850 BC.

Dr Higham said that the precise test would not have been possible without a £1,300 grant from British Nuclear Fuels, the state nuclear supply company.

"The work at Tatton Park is of very great historical importance," the company said.

## Driver tells of rail death crash

From Our Correspondent, York

A passenger train driver averted a disaster when he sent two men to flag down a tanker train heading towards a detailed locomotive. The tanker train of oil-laden wagons stopped within yards of the York to Liverpool train.

One pensioner died and 24 other people were injured when a passenger train fell down a 30ft embankment after hitting a broken rail at Ulferskill, near York, last month.

A British Rail inquiry was told that 80 passengers on board were hurled over seats as coaches jumped the track.

Mr Geoffrey Smith, the driver, said: "I heard a loud bang and the loco seemed to lurch sideways. I thought we had struck something on the line."

Mr Smith said he told two trackmen travelling with him to flag down the tanker train.

Mr Anthony Townsend-Rose, a Department of Transport inspecting officer, said the inquiry at the Eastern Region headquarters in York was investigating mechanical rather than human error.

The rail which caused the crash had fractured in two places and Mr Len Falshaw, a truck supervisor, said his sleepers had been smashed under a number of severe blows, which suggested the damage had been done by more than one train.

British Rail scientists at Derby found that the track had "dipped" slightly under the weight, and the weld joining the rail was weak. The section of track was near the end of a bridge and the change of running surface to gravel ballast could have weakened it further.

Mr Falshaw said frost could have broken the rail and another on the same line. The inquiry's findings will be published later.

## £5 Million Jaguar sales boost in Middle East

In 1981 Jaguar Cars won orders of over £5m with a major sales push in the Middle East.

Jaguar dealers in the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia have launched a specially adapted XJ6 4.2 saloon with air conditioning and a modified cooling

system to meet the high temperatures.

This success has paved the way for the introduction of further Jaguar models which will send 1982 sales even higher.

BL Fighting back



# Major errors by police in hunt for Ripper

## CRIME

During the search for the Yorkshire Ripper there were major errors of judgement by the police and some inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation at various levels, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a statement on the review of the case carried out by Mr Lawrence Byford, one of her Majesty's inspectors of constabulary.

Mr Whitelaw said: I asked Mr Byford to report on any lessons which might be learnt from the conduct of the investigation and which should be made known to police forces generally.

Mr Byford was assisted in his review by the external advisory team set up in November, 1980. He was also able to take account of views put to him about this tragic case by relatives of the victims, who greatly appreciated the opportunity to voice their misgivings.

I have now received and considered Mr Byford's report and I am extremely grateful to him for it.

It is apparent from the report that there were major errors of judgement by the police and some inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation at various levels. In particular, excessive credence was given to the letters and tape from a man claiming responsibility for the series of murders and signing himself "Jack the Ripper".

Another serious handicap to the investigation was the ineffectiveness of the major incident room which became overloaded with unprocessed information. With hindsight, it is now clear that if these errors and inefficiencies had not occurred, Suffice would have been identified as a prime suspect sooner than he was. Mr Byford's report concludes that there is little doubt that he should have been arrested earlier on the facts associated with his various police interviews.

I would remind the House that the Ripper case gave rise to the largest criminal investigation ever conducted in this country imposing a great strain on all concerned. It would have been surprising if it had not.

The situation there were no mistakes.

What we now have to do is to respond constructively to the considerable experience gained in the course of it in order to ensure that future investigations of crimes such as this are carried out as effectively and quickly as possible.

I now turn, therefore, to the lessons for the future and to the recommendations made by Mr Byford. These deal comprehensively with the management requirements of the investigation of a series of major crimes: the training of senior detectives and personnel working in major incident rooms; the command of investigations involving a number of crimes which cross force boundaries; the harnessing of resources; the use of computer technology.

I welcome Mr Byford's recommendations and I am sure they are already being followed up with representatives of the police service. They provide guidelines for the operational conduct of very large criminal investigations in police forces generally. They will be taken into account by the Home Secretary's statement on the matter at all levels of the police service.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab): The Home Secretary's statement contains matters which the House will consider to be both distressing and distasteful in the light of the fact that the investigation of the Yorkshire Ripper was a major incident which became overloaded with unprocessed information.

With hindsight, it is now clear that if these errors and inefficiencies had not occurred, Suffice would have been identified as a prime suspect sooner than he was. Mr Byford's report concludes that there is little doubt that he should have been arrested earlier on the facts associated with his various police interviews.

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The warranted criticism about the ways in which these cases were handled. Beyond that it would be best to leave the Lord Chancellor to deal with these matters, and the Royal Bank of Scotland questions, because there has been advice - and that will be reviewed - to leave the Lord Chancellor to deal with these matters in his inimitable and definitive way.

Bank system must not stay frozen

The structure of the banking system in the United Kingdom must not remain frozen Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said in a statement on the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to the decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to recommend against two takeover bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland applied to that particular case only.

Sir Paul Bryan (Hawden, C) had asked: Will she consider the situation in which a Conservative Secretary of State has approved the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission?

Commission which insulates competition against our lucrative banking system, and at the same time allows them to use their profits to buy banks abroad in countries which do believe in competition? These are subjects which should be decided by the Cabinet and not by some commission.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib) had asked for the Secretary of State to consider the situation in which a Conservative Secretary of State has approved the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission?

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have been saved from the awful fate which overcame them? I ask him to take three actions which are necessary for the establishment of confidence in the police forces of this country. We need a far stronger determination of his intentions. Will he promise the House to take whatever action is necessary to remedy the faults which have been described? We need assurance that he will take whatever action is necessary to avoid serious errors in the police forces outside West Yorkshire. This report will reverberate throughout the country and undermine confidence in other areas.

What action is being taken concerning the officers who were clearly responsible for the errors which prolonged the tragedy? Are they still in charge of serious crime in their area? If that was the case the House would regard it as wholly intolerable. (Cheers)

Mr Whitelaw said the summary of the report held back nothing and did not seek to cover up anything. Mr Hattersley (the went on) put to me a question which can never be wholly answered but from what I have seen of the report, I believe that that would not do justice to an important report.

Mr Hattersley: I asked about the officers concerned and whether they are still in charge of investigations of serious crimes in the area. That is an important question. Mr Whitelaw: I could not guarantee directly to answer in bits of paper which Yorkshire television viewers saw being sorted in enormous numbers of shoe boxes in the incident room.

He could take steps to make sure there is consistency in the relationship between police authorities and the assisted places scheme, and how many children were involved.

Mr Boyson: Some 220 independent schools are participating in the assisted places scheme. They are directed to offer a maximum of 4,539 assisted places in England. They are directed to offer a maximum of 4,539 assisted places each year; 4,185 places were taken up in September 1981.

Mr Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St Pancras South, Lab): Have any assisted places schemes applications come from Winton House School, St Leonards-on-Sea, whose headmaster Mr D. J. Cole MA (Jesus College, Cambridge) has recently written to Mr Neil Kinnock, Opposition spokesman on education, threatening to use the armed forces against the next Labour Government?

Mr Boyson: That was quite an interesting and unusual question. I have had no discussions on St Leonards.

Head teachers must wait for decision

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, agreed that head teachers were being appointed in Manchester without schools to go to, but that was conditional upon a decision he had to make.

Mr Frederick Silvester (Manchester, Whittington, C) had asked: Is the Secretary of State aware that most of the head teachers in Manchester are being appointed without schools to go to, but that was conditional upon a decision he had to make?

Mr Joseph: I shall take each decision on the merits of the case, and I shall take into account the objections and all other relevant factors.

The Manchester decision highlights the point that schools of proven worth should be retained. The draft circular reminded local education authorities of the need to take account of it when they formulate proposals.

Over 4,000 in assisted places scheme

Unless MPs had a vast tribe of children they would not qualify for help under the assisted places scheme, Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary of State for Education, said during questions.

Mr Boyson: I am sure that the families earning 50 per cent more than the average income.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) had asked, however many children agreed to cooperate in accepting children

Bill to protect workers from noise

10-MINUTE RULE

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham, North-East, Lab) was given leave under the 10-minute rule to introduce the Noise Induced Hearing Loss Bill. It was introduced before becoming an MP. He worked in newspaper machine room for 10 years and was exposed to 106 decibels of noise, and his own hearing had suffered as a result.

This was one of society's biggest diseases and the social cost to the individual was enormous. The terrible fact about this disease was that it could be prevented. Perhaps because it did not cause physical disfigurement it was not taken seriously. The voluntary approach had failed. The time had come to make this a matter of public and political priority. The Government must give the lead. It must emphasize to the Health and Safety Commission that its new regulations must be tightened.

The Bill was read a first time.



Whitelaw: Lessons to learn



Hattersley: Tragic facts

absolutely certain that the lessons on this case should be properly learnt and should be transmitted to all the police services in the country.

Through the inspectors of constabulary (the added) I intend to make sure all these lessons will be learnt. I believe that that would not do justice to an important report.

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# Shares for sale in N Sea oil

## ENERGY

The Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill would be a landmark in the history of national policy towards Britain's energy resources. It would be a landmark in the history of national policy towards Britain's energy resources. It would be a landmark in the history of national policy towards Britain's energy resources.

It is hardly surprising (he said) that, in sharp contrast to the position with offshore oil, exploration for gas is minimal and we do not even have a clear picture of what our total gas reserves amount to. Meanwhile, many industries throughout the country are deprived of the gas they would like to buy. We have therefore decided to break the monopoly and open the industry up to the spur of competition. (Conservative cheers)

British Gas would retain its statutory monopoly only within that market which it had a statutory obligation to supply. It would also provide new powers for the disposal of assets held by the British Gas Corporation, subject to Parliamentary approval and, for the first time, would allow competition in the supply of gas.

The successful development of North Sea resources had been overwhelmingly the achievement of private enterprise. Vital strategic and other national interests were fully safeguarded by the statutory framework of controls, participation agreements and taxation. Application of the same principles to the oil companies in the production of oil added nothing to the security of supply or other national interests.

Privatisation was an act of liberation and ownership of the shares should be as widely spread as possible. The name of the new company would be British Gas and he had asked that the corporation register it in Scotland. Its formation and registration would be subject to the second reading, although it could not become operational until the Bill was on the statute book.

Once reorganization of the corporation's assets was complete the Bill would enable the Government to take possession of the assets of the British Gas Corporation. The initial aim was to sell 51 per cent of the shares in Britain while keeping the way open for the sale of the remaining 49 per cent to the Government's shareholding at a later date when it was decided to be in the national interest. The timing depended on market conditions. It would take place before the end of the year.

The sale would not go ahead unless the Government were satisfied that offering for sale represented fair value for the taxpayer, but there was no reason to doubt that an acceptable price would be obtained. After the sale 51 per cent of the shares, Britoil would operate as a normal private sector company with the management and day-to-day operations under their directors, for their own future. The Government did not intend to control the company or use its rights as a shareholder to interfere in the company's commercial decisions. It would retain special rights to prevent any unacceptable change in the future control of the company.

Similarly (he said) in any situation where there are attempts directly or indirectly to obtain control over the composition of the board of BNOG, the Government would intervene to prevent any unacceptable change in the future control of the company.

The Government intended to use the new powers in the Bill to dispose of gas corporation assets to privatize the corporation's assets. The Bill would be introduced in the House of Commons on Monday.

As a result, gas producers inevitably saw little incentive to explore for and develop gas reserves because they knew they would be faced with a take-it-or-leave-it price offer from the corporation. At worst they might get no offer at all.

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# Thatcher on rape case sentencing

## PM's QUESTIONS

It was vital that women should have confidence in the ability of the law to protect them against rape, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said in a statement on the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to the decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to recommend against two takeover bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland applied to that particular case only.

Sir Paul Bryan (Hawden, C) had asked: Will she consider the situation in which a Conservative Secretary of State has approved the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission?

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**From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 19**

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## 'Spymaster' trial opens in Munich

an interview with  
ish radio, Mr Goukouni  
"the truth cannot be  
ated")

## Jail suitable

**From Michael Hamlyn  
New York, Jan 19**

It was the contention of scholars loyal to Mao that "bour created man." At the place where the remains of Peking Man (about 500,000 years old) were found, there is a museum which is devoted to the study of this point. However, more recent scholarship in China holds that "man created man."



## Call-up to be extended in S. Africa

progress, at least in the short and medium term, are advancing again in the long term.

## Rawlings wages holy war

political thinking of the  
bureaucracy and ideologists  
place the emphasis on  
proving living standards,  
health and defense

## UGANDANS FREE 155 PRISONERS

political thinking of the  
bureaucracy and ideologists  
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proving living standards,  
health and defense

## More Maoist doctrines spurned

progress, at least in the short and medium term before advancing again in the long term.

**If you were a charity this is how you'd see the Vatman.**

The money that we get is spent providing essential care – services which would otherwise have to be provided by central or local government – probably at much greater cost.

Local authorities can recover VAT, commercial companies can recover VAT – why, therefore, shouldn't charities be able to recover VAT. If you think this unfair burden should be lifted, the Society would greatly appreciate it if you would write to your MP.

# The Spastics Society

12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Telephone: 01-636-5020.



## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Atlanta jury watches slide show

Atlanta. — The prosecution began to get to the heart of the case against Wayne Williams, accused of the murder of two of the 28 young blacks whose deaths terrified Atlanta, Georgia, last year.

They set up a slide projector and a huge screen in front of the jury box to show the dog hairs and carpet fibres they claim link Mr Williams to his alleged victims, and they called to the stand an expert from Du Pont, the chemical company, to tell the jury how the fibres are made.

Detailed and painstaking forensic work has resulted in the matching of fibres and dog hairs taken from the bodies of the two victims, and from some of the other victims too, to similar fibres taken from Williams's car, the prosecution says.

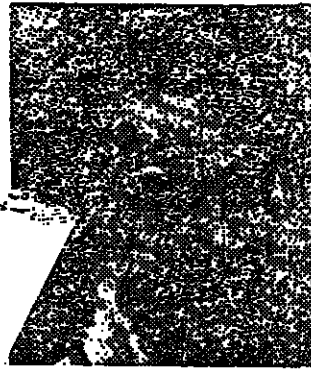
Mr Williams, a freelance photographer with aspirations to be a talent scout, is accused of murdering Nathaniel Cater, aged 27, and Jimmy Ray Payne, aged 21, and dumping their bodies into the Chattahoochee River.

## Special dock for hijack trial

Officials have begun working on the accommodation problem that will arise when the 45 mercenaries charged with the armed hijack of an Air India Boeing from the Seychelles in November go on trial in the Natal Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg.

Mr C. T. Verwey, the registrar, said a special dock enclosed in wood and glass would be used. It was built originally for the trial in 1979 of 13 men and was enlarged to accommodate the 45 mercenaries. The trial is due to begin on March 10 and will be heard by Mr Justice Neville James, acting judge president of the trial, and two assessors. There is no jury system in South Africa.

## Plea to Russia by Lady Coggan



Lady Coggan, the wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, who has appealed to President Brezhnev for exit visas to be granted to the seven Siberian Pentecostals who have spent the past three-and-a-half years in that American Embassy in Moscow.

## Greece renews Soviet ship deal

Athens. — The Greek Government said it had consented to the renewal of an agreement for the repair and maintenance of unarmed Soviet Navy auxiliary ships in a Greek shipyard.

The original agreement was concluded in 1979 between the Soviet Navy and Neorion shipyard on the island of Syros, which is controlled by the National Bank of Greece. The contract was cancelled a year later after objections by Nato.

The ships must be used on order for carrying food, medicines, or fuel, must be crewed by civilians and not carry guns or electronic devices.

## Trade unionist held in detention 11 years

Kuala Lumpur. — A trade unionist released after 11 years detention under Malaysia's security laws called on the Government to free all political detainees or put them on trial.

Mr Nada Rajah, aged 43, told a press conference that political prisoners were treated worse than criminals. He said he spent 21 hours a day in solitary confinement for the last four years of his detention.

## Container stolen

Lagos. — A gang of armed robbers on a bogus Nigeria Airways bus forced their way on to the tarmac of Lagos airport and stole a complete container about to be hoisted on board a Sabena flight. The contents and value of the container were not immediately known.

## Belgian jets collide

Brussels. — Two Belgian F16s collided at high altitude and crashed south of Rochefort in the Ardennes. One pilot ejected safely but the other is missing.

## Reagan blunder on race forces a policy U-turn

From Peter David of "The Times Higher Educational Supplement", Washington, Jan 19

Acting swiftly to mend a breach with black civil rights organizations, President Reagan yesterday sent a Bill to Congress which would repeal a new policy on school segregation introduced by his Administration less than two weeks earlier.

The episode began 11 days ago when the Justice and Treasury Departments said they would be dropping a rule, imposed in 1970 by President Nixon, which denied charitable status and tax exemptions to private schools openly practising racial discrimination.

The measure had been approved by the White House and announced without fanfare. But it has rapidly grown into a major political blunder, unleashing ferocious criticism from veteran civil rights groups and forcing the President to issue a personal statement reaffirming his opposition to racism and claiming that the Government's motives had been misunderstood.

In a statement issued four days after the new policy was announced, President Reagan said he remained "unalterably opposed" to racial discrimination in any form. He had agreed to change the 12-year-old tax policy only because it yielded excessive power to the Internal Revenue Service.

"I would not knowingly contribute to any organization that supports racial discrimination. My record and the record of this Administration are clear on this point," he said. "I am also opposed to administrative agencies exercising powers that the Constitution assigns to the Congress. Such agencies, no

matter how well-intentioned, cannot be allowed to govern by administrative fiat. That was the sole basis of the decision announced by the Treasury Department. . . I regret that there has been a misunderstanding of the purpose of the decision."

Clearly surprised by the strength of public reaction, the President concluded his statement with a promise to enact legislation restoring the very rules the Administration had just abandoned. But the new policy would remain in effect until Congress acted.

However, in a weekend press conference, the Rev Jesse Helms, a veteran black rights leader, said the distance between the White House and black America was now greater than it had been for 50 years. Mr Benjamin Hooks, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, accused the President of "pandering to the worst racist attitudes".

Mr Reagan's inner cabinet has started a post-mortem to discover why the President said he remained fully committed to the policy which has left the Administration legally and politically exposed.

In press interviews Mr Ed Meese, the White House counsellor, admitted that the issue has not been fully explained to the President. Nor had all the implications been reported to Mr James Baker, the White House chief of staff or to his deputy, Mr Michael Deaver.

President Reagan said yesterday that he had asked the Revenue Service to take no action on the new measure until Congress passed the Bill restoring the status quo.

## Supreme Court overturns juvenile's death sentence

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 19

The Supreme Court, in a decision which represents a victory for opponents of capital punishment, ruled by five votes to four today that courts must consider a defendant's age and emotional background when imposing the death penalty on a juvenile.

The court had considered the case of Monry Lee Eddings who was sentenced to death for fatally shooting an Oklahoma highway patrolman near Tulsa in 1977. Mr Eddings was aged 16 at the time.

The court overturned the sentence because it had been imposed without full consideration of certain mitigating evidence that might have pointed to life imprisonment as the appropriate sentence.

Led by Justice Lewis Powell, the court's majority stated that "when the defendant is 16 years old at the time of the crime, there can be no doubt that evidence of a turbulent family history, beatings by a harsh father and of severe emotional disturbance is particularly relevant".

Mr Justice Powell added: "We are not unaware of the extent to which minor-age defendants are in violent crime. Nor do we suggest an absence of legal responsibility where crime is committed by a minor. We are concerned here only with the manner of the imposition of

the ultimate penalty: the death sentence imposed for the crime of murder upon an emotionally disturbed youth with a disturbed child's maturity."

A group of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers had contended during the hearing that the death penalty for adolescents has inhumane punishment.

About 17 other young men are being held in "death rows" throughout the country convicted of murder or other capital offences carried out when they were under the age of 18.

Today's ruling, however, left unanswered the question whether juveniles can be sentenced to death. Justice Powell said the court had not ruled on whether in the light of contemporary standards the Eight Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment forbids execution of a juvenile.

The ruling does not alter Mr Eddings's conviction, but makes necessary a new sentencing procedure in which certain personal factors will have to be considered. It is possible that Mr Eddings could be sentenced to death once more.

Joining Justice Powell in the majority was Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was appointed by President Reagan last year, the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court.

## Koivisto win a turning point

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki, Jan 19

The stunning victory of Mr Mauno Koivisto, the Social Democratic Prime Minister, in Finland's presidential election was generally regarded today as the country's most important post-war political turning point.

Mr Koivisto stood as his party's candidate, but he stayed aloof of the Social Democratic Party and won votes from all the other contending parties. He secured 42.3 per cent of the votes, which is unheard of in a closely contested poll. Usually the Social Democrats can win about 25 per cent of the popular vote.

With this landslide vote Mr Koivisto got 145 electors in the 301-strong Council of Electors. Although he is six short of the 151 electors needed for outright victory, his election to the presidency by the Council on January 26 appeared certain last night, when the Euro-communist wing of the Communist Party declared that it would support Mr Koivisto. Electors belonging to other parties also appear tempted to back Mr Koivisto instead of their own candidates.

The complicated two-stage election system stipulates that if at a meeting of the Electoral Council no candidate receives 151 or more votes in the first ballot, the electors must have a second round. If no majority candidate emerges at the third ballot then the top contender of the second round is selected for the presidency.

Mr Koivisto's victory does not spell any abrupt changes in Finnish politics. He has reiterated that he wants to continue Finland's present

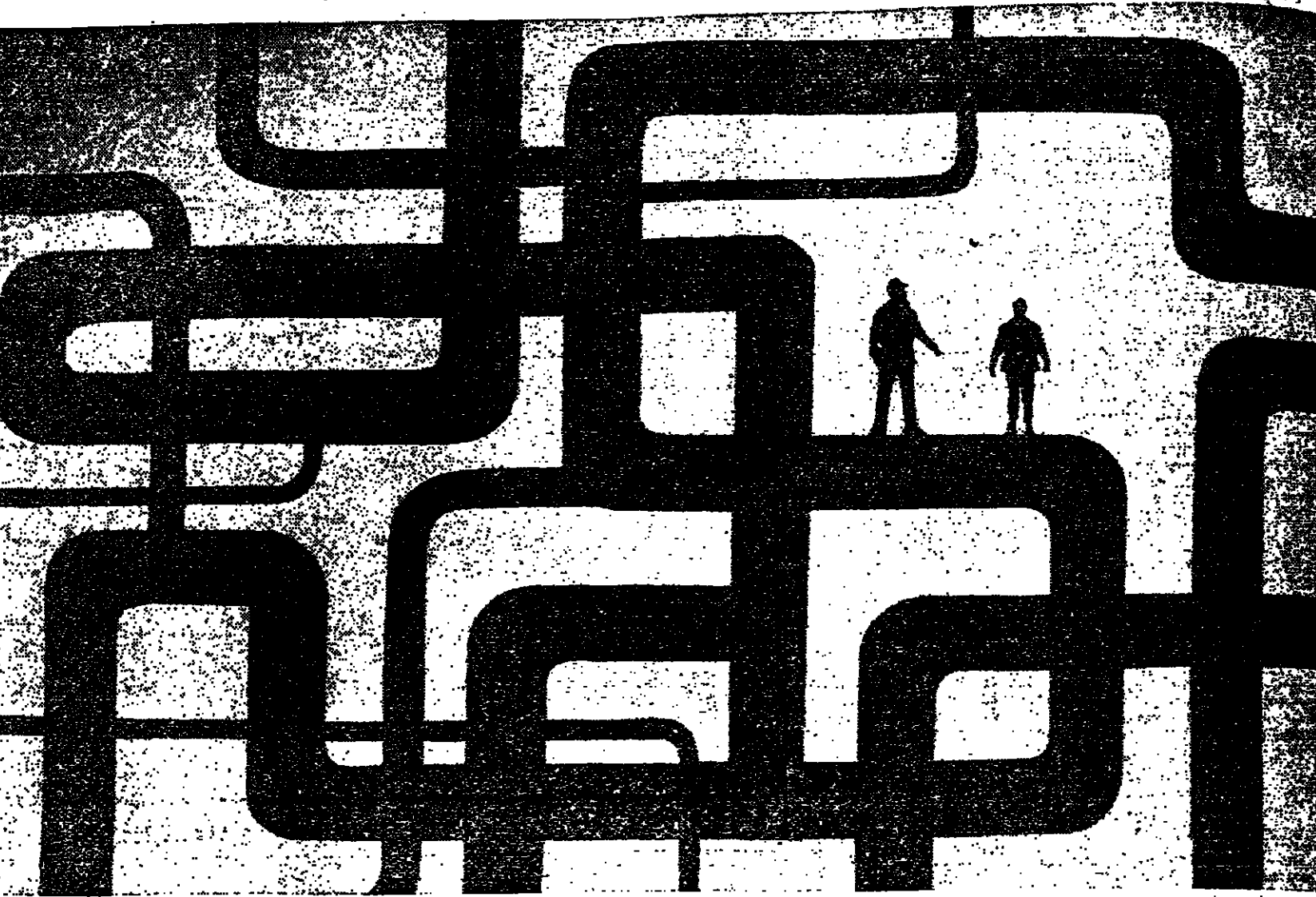
foreign policy based on neutrality and good relations with all neighbours, especially the Soviet Union. This is a consensus policy supported by all political parties.

In internal policies the possibility of the Mitterrand phenomenon being repeated in Finland is generally regarded as being remote. The presidential election result, though a personal triumph for Mr Koivisto, is not expected to help the Social Democrats very much in the parliamentary elections due to be held next year.

The country has been moving to the right, and the Communist Party's continued downhill slide means that the non-Socialist parties are not likely to lose their present dominant position in Parliament.

The Communists suffered a serious defeat in the presidential election. Mr Kalevi Koivisto, their candidate, received only 11 per cent of the vote compared to the Communist's 18.2 per cent showing in the 1978 presidential poll. Mr Koivisto actually secured 32 electors; of these the Euro-Communist majority of the party won 21, leaving the minority Stalinists with only 11. The Communist vote went clearly to Mr Koivisto.

The Stalinists had failed to win Soviet support for their bitter fight against Mr Koivisto. Moscow adopted a strictly neutral stand after it had learnt that President Urho Kekkonen would resign because of ill health.



Water maze: Engineers are dwarfed by pipes at a waterworks in Moscow. The total length of the plant's piping, at 4,650 miles is double the total length of Moscow's streets. The Moskva and Volga rivers supply the water.

## Fears over ending of ETA truce

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Jan 19

A leading Basque left-wing politician today expressed alarm that the politico-military wing of ETA, the Basque separatist movement, might return to large scale terrorism after breaking its truce of almost a year by kidnapping the father of Señor Julio Iglesias, the singer.

While Señor Leopoldo Celso Sotelo, the Prime Minister, today was personally fleeing the policemen who early on Sunday rescued Dr Iglesias after 19 days in captivity, Señor Mario Onaindia warned Basques of the big risks involved for democracy in breaking the truce.

Señor Onaindia heads the Euzkadiko Eskerra party, which has been closest hitherto to ETA's politico-military wing and helped bring about the truce immediately after last February's unsuccessful military coup shook the Basque country.

He was referring to the admission made to Basque media last night by a spokesman who said that ETA's politico-military wing has carried out the "arrest" of Dr Iglesias because of the organization's "permanent need of funds."

Dr Iglesias flew off to join his son in Miami today after giving Spain's police chiefs dinner last night in a famous Madrid restaurant. According to gossip columnists the bill, including famous "Vega Sicilia" wines, came to over £1,000. He chose that wine because, he said, he saw his kidnappers drinking it.

Liège: A consignment of 500 revolvers has been stolen between Bayonne, south-west France, and Liège in Belgium and they could have found their way to the Basque guerrilla organization ETA, police said here. — Reuter.

## Poland: Carrington's analysis

## Why Russia fears Nato stand

By David Cross

There was no doubt that the Soviet Union was "very worried" about Western reaction to the imposition of martial law in Poland, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

In a forceful defence of Western policy towards the Polish crisis Lord Carrington said that the very fact that Nato foreign ministers met in Brussels last week indicated the Polish martial law authorities to lift censorship on Western reporters and to meet Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

The outcome of the Nato meeting was to send an important signal to Moscow that if it went any further in Poland, "certain other things will happen". There could well be a "total failure" of détente, the suspension of East-West arms talks and a cancellation of American grain deals with the Soviet Union.

The Foreign Secretary rejected suggestions from

members of the committee that the Polish crisis had led to another rift in the Western alliance. The agreement by Nato and EEC member states to withhold further credits to Poland and to refuse to discuss the rescheduling of Polish debts to the West were "very considerable sanctions, in the widest sense of that word", Lord Carrington said.

The Foreign Secretary added that the sanctions would remain in force until such time that the Polish authorities met the three conditions laid down by the West — the lifting of martial law, the release of all detainees, and the resumption of the dialogue between the Government and the church and Solidarity, the suspended independent trade union movement. It was now up to Warsaw to deliver these three requirements and the West would then be prepared to review the situation.

Lord Carrington described the last 18 months of Polish moves towards democracy as

"the beginning of a rebellion against a totalitarian regime. What we have seen since December 13 (when the state of emergency was declared) has been the repression of that."

Now the West was telling Warsaw that the dialogue must be allowed to continue without a solution being imposed either from outside or by a totalitarian government.

Taking issue with the suggestion that the West would abandon further action against Poland or the Soviet Union, Lord Carrington said that Nato officials responsible for economic affairs would be meeting in Brussels on Saturday, or next Tuesday, to discuss various sanctions against Moscow. These would be similar to those already announced by President Reagan in Washington.

Officials in Whitehall said that the forthcoming meeting was unlikely to be a final decision-taking session.

## Poland: Comecon scrutiny

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan 19

## East Europe counts cost of crisis

Officials from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block, began talks here today that will be dominated by the economic disruption the Polish crisis has caused in Eastern Europe and the bleak outlook for the coming year.

The meeting, one of four regular sessions held each year, is not expected to take any emergency decisions on aid to Poland or give a direct response to the American sanctions against Warsaw and Moscow.

But these questions must be taken into account as the 10 member countries — the Warsaw Pact nations together with Vietnam, Mongolia and Cuba — look at their long-term plans for economic integration, energy reserves and multinational construction projects over the next five years.

Poland has had serious repercussions on all these. Shortfalls in Polish coal deliveries have exacerbated the energy crisis affecting member states; the increased cost of Eastern European goods has been induced to give Poland a strain on their own economies; and Poland's virtual bankruptcy has made Western banks and governments wary of granting

further credit to any communist country, especially those which — like Romania — are already deeply in debt. For most Comecon members the past year has been difficult, but the future looks more precarious.

One problem is that Comecon is dominated by the Soviet Union, both politically and economically. The Soviet economy is now suffering from low growth. A rigid planning system and the need to export raw materials, especially fuel, to the West to earn hard currency.

Soviet oil accounts for 90 per cent of Comecon's supplies, but until 1985 deliveries have been pegged to the 1980 level of 1.6 million barrels a day. The cutback in Polish coal exports means that East Europeans, now having to pay almost the world market price for Soviet oil and waiting for an ambitious nuclear programme to come on stream will suffer a serious energy shortage for some years.

The Soviet Union is pressing for the integration of the economies of the block — formally agreed in 1971 as much for political as economic reasons. The Romanian example is significant. As the country's economic problems grow, Bucharest's once vaunted independent foreign pol-

icy has been trimmed to chime in with its Russian partner.

While pressing for integration, however, the Russians are wary of reform. President Brezhnev praised Hungary's agricultural successes at the party congress, but the Polish collapse has halted attempts to take such bold steps elsewhere. Moscow is ever fearful that changes in the economic system, the basis of communism, will spill over into the political arena.

The Russians have explicitly warned their partners not to repeat Poland's mistakes: Mr Brezhnev said last year it would be a mistake for a communist country to run up large debts.

Although the Russians are themselves indebted to the West, they are cutting back imports, especially of technology, and increasing gold sales.

Ideally, the Russians have striven for autarky. Comecon allows this restricting principle to be broadened while keeping trade within the socialist family. Comecon wants each country to specialise in a particular economic field to avoid overlap. But here the Soviet vision conflicts with East European desires for greater economic independence.

## Syrians fire missiles at Israeli jets

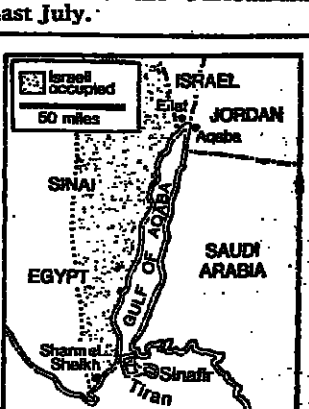
From Edward Mortimer Beirut, Jan 19

Syrian troops in Lebanon today fired Soviet-made Sam 6 missiles at overflying Israeli jets for the first time since the crisis over Syria's installation of the missiles last April. But both Syria and Israel seemed willing to pretend the incident had not happened rather than risk escalation into a new Middle East war.

Reliable Lebanese and diplomatic sources reported the firing of two missiles from the Syrian-occupied Bekaa Valley, between Beirut and Damascus, shortly before midday, at five Israeli aircraft. Both missed, said a Palestinian anti-aircraft fire directed at three of the aircraft which turned westwards over Beirut. The other two continued northwards.

Israel confirmed the overflight but said that no missiles had been fired at the aircraft, according to reports from the pilots. Syrian radio ignored the incident, mentioning only that Israeli aircraft had flown over Beirut.

Israeli jets regularly overfly Lebanese territory, and Israel insists this is necessary in order to have early warning of any attack by Palestinian forces based in Lebanon. But it is believed that today's flight was the first over the Bekaa valley since the ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians last July.



## Sharon in Cairo talks

Cairo, Jan 19. — Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's Defence Minister, today discussed the final withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai peninsula next April with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The hour-long meeting at the Presidential Palace here was the first between an Israeli Cabinet minister and Mr Mubarak since he became President after the assassination of President Sadat in October.

Their discussions preceded a final session of talks with Mr Kamel Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, at which the two sides said they would complete the details of the withdrawal. Mr Sharon is here for three days of talks to settle outstanding problems about the evacuation from Sinai. An Israeli official said that details outstanding after today's talks would be dealt with by technical committees.

Yesterday, Mr Ali and Mr Sharon said they had resolved the main issues, identified as the dismantling of Israeli settlements, compensation for various installations; whether to station troops from a multi-national peacekeeping force on two islands at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba; and demarcation of the frontier in the area of Rafah on the Mediterranean, and Tabah, a coral reef resort in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Israel is withdrawing from Sinai as part of the Camp David peace agreement. Mr Sharon described the present talks as "very fruitful".

## Poland: The courts Activist given mild sentence

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 19

A Polish court today sentenced a Solidarity activist to a two year suspended jail term for leading a strike at a nuclear research centre. Mr Andrzej Wisniewski, an engineer, was also fined 20,000 zloty (£1,300). A rigid law on strikes requires a strike to be declared by a union, and a strike to be peaceful and non-violent. Mr Wisniewski was charged with leading a strike at the nuclear research centre.

Despite the heavy fine, the sentence is relatively mild for a Solidarity activist involved in strike actions in the week following the imposition of martial law. Other activists accused of organizing strikes have received sentences of up to seven years with no right of appeal.

The court may well have been influenced by the experience of the Huta Warszawa trial, when three men were accused of organizing strike

action at the Huta Warszawa steel works on Dec 14 and 15. Two of the men, Solidarity members, were acquitted because it proved to be impossible to distinguish between spontaneous protest actions and organized strike.

At Mr Wisniewski's trial this too proved to be the main defence case, and charges of strike organizing had to be dropped. Instead he was found guilty of the much milder charge of managing a strike.

Several witnesses testified that Mr Wisniewski had appealed for calm when riot police came in to break up the strike, which involved only a fraction of the total 700 workforce. Other mitigating factors appeared to be that the strike was against interment and not martial

law as such, and that Mr Wisniewski had a record of good behaviour in the research centre.

However, the trial — which was held in a normal and not a summary court — yielded some interesting facts about the scope of Solidarity's organization in the scientific and intellectual community. Even though this research centre ranks as one of the most secret in Poland, 600 out of the 700 workers were Solidarity members.

It is by no means clear whether the authorities will be able to dismiss specialist workers who are also Solidarity members and refuse to renounce the union. Many scientists at nuclear research centres are obviously difficult to replace.

Leading article, page 11



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# Tarzan tames his jungle

In the week that Michael Heseltine asks Parliament once again for new powers to control local government spending, David Walker and Bernard Donoghue look at his reign as Secretary of State at the huge Department of the Environment.



Michael Heseltine: a managerial ethos.

## The major directorates of the Department of the Environment

- Planning, New Towns and Inner Areas: Town and country planning, the new urban development corporations and enterprise zones; partnership arrangements between the DoE and inner city councils; post-Toxtheth changes.
- Regional Organisation, Conservation, Sport, Recreation and Rural Affairs: Greater London; ancient monuments and historic buildings; the Countryside Commission; footpaths; endangered species; housing of 200; the Sports Council; crowd behaviour.
- Environmental Protection: The regional water authorities; supply and treatment of water; river quality; the condition of British waters; toxic substances; active waste and toxic substances.
- Housing: Sale of council houses; council tenants' rights; rent rebates; the Housing Corporation; the national mobility scheme; housing the elderly and disabled.
- Finance: Block grant to local councils; control of council spending; value for money in local government; auditing; rates.



Thames Valley police questioning the woman who said she had been raped.

## What rape tells us about 'predatory' view of women

By staff reporters in London, New York and Paris

Despite the furor raised by the recent fine on a rapist, followed by Monday's BBC film of police grilling a woman victim, Britain is not especially lenient on rapists. In terms of the severity of its sentences, we are somewhere between the Scandinavians who are very severe and the Dutch who are lenient. We are roughly similar to the English-speaking and the European countries, according to Professor Terence Morris, a criminologist with the London School of Economics.

But *The Times*, inquiry yesterday did suggest that Britain is a long way behind the United States, Germany and Sweden in the way suspected rape victims are treated. That seems to be realized officially for all chief constables are now to receive a reminder from the Home Office on the treatment of rape victims.

Six years ago a Home Office advisory committee on the law on rape headed by Mrs Justice Heilbrunn noted that: "Complainants vary widely from the angry and resentful to the stunned and deeply distressed, but all expect help and many are probably reluctant to complain. Tactful and sympathetic interrogation is necessary. Experience and sympathy in the interrogator are more important than his or her sex."

In 1976 the Home Office issued guidance based on that note. Yesterday it announced that the guidance is to be repeated with some elaboration in the hope that what television viewers watched in Monday's 40 minute *Police* programme can be avoided.

For viewers saw Thames Valley detectives aggressively question a woman complainant, ask for details of her sex life, accuse her of lying and use crude language.

It is understood that the Home Office guidance will also point out that if a case goes to court women do not have to give details of their sex life unless the judge orders them to. In the police film the Thames detectives suggested to the woman that she might face a very difficult ordeal in court with the implication that her sex life would have to be discussed.

There are no comparative international studies of rape sentencing, according to Professor Morris, but the trends do seem clear. In Denmark, rapists are often offered reduced sentences in return for agreeing to return for psychiatric treatment, which is castration, while in Sweden maximum security imprisonment is the norm.

The Dutch, by contrast, strive for non-custodial sentences as a matter of national policy in virtually all criminal cases where severe psychopathology is not established. Holland is "the only country in the Western world" to take that approach to rape, said Professor Morris.

What struck him most forcefully in American studies of rape, however, was the universality of the victim's experience: hostility and suspicion from the police, "exactly what rape victims here have been saying for years". Those "astounding similarities" showed something, he thought about the West's "predatory attitude" towards women.

Under the French penal code prison sentences for rape are 5 to 10 years, unless weapons or particularly vulnerable persons are involved. Sentences range from 10 to 20 years. In Britain over the past decade around 17 per cent of reported rapists have been sentenced to up to 2 years, around half of them to between two and four years, and 26 per cent to four to seven years.

In the United States where there is no brutality the judge is likely to hand down a suspended sentence. There is no typical sentence and the individual judge takes into account many variables. Sentences range up to 25 years.

The latest figures from France show that in 1979, 435 rapists were given prison sentences, out of around 1,700 cases brought to the courts.

Another leading criminologist, a woman, emphasized

that the Americans, if similar in sentencing, had a distinct lead in counselling. "Here it is the attitude of the investigating officers that have to be changed. Police in the States do have specially trained teams of men and women officers. We are only just beginning to think on these lines."

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, agreed. He thought the problem shown in the programme could be allayed by using more women officers. Sex equality legislation had integrated them into the service and lost their expertise.

Thames Valley had said it may follow the example of several other forces in Britain and use police women in special units.

All day yesterday Britain's relatively few Rape crisis centres, there are 20 were flooded with telephone calls from women angry at what they had seen on the television programme. In addition Thames Valley had more than 200 calls and the BBC about 70.

Rape crisis centres are run by women to assist victims. The Highgate centre, which covers the whole of London had 881, compared with 689 the year before. Only a quarter of those who called had also made a complaint to the police.

A spokesman said: "There are about 1,200 cases of rape reported for the whole country. Of these only about half are proceeded against, and the number of convictions is only about 300." She added that the BBC programme was a "pointing programme to watch. It is what we are hearing all the time. A woman is put through all that. It indicates why so few cases are reported."

Birmingham rape crisis centre, the only 24-hour service outside London, reported that several women who telephoned yesterday had volunteered to work at the centre. Others said they had experienced similar treatment when they went to complain to the police of rape or sexual harassment.

Of 33 sample cases the centre recorded in the 12 months after October 1979, 45 had first been to the police before the centre and 33 did not report their case to the police. In the following year 43 of 59 cases failed to complain to the police.

The reason attributed to the level of formal complaints were many women's reluctance to face police questioning and an internal examination, often by a male police surgeon. Several had also been threatened with retaliation by the attacker if they reported the case or simply did not want anyone to know of the assault.

Not everyone has had a bad time with the police and quite a few women have no complaints, the centre added. "But overall there is a feeling of dissatisfaction, especially over the amount of time women may have to spend in the police station, sometimes up to 12 hours, and the fact they may be asked very personal questions, even about their sexual history."

She said the Birmingham Rape Crisis Centre had received about 500 calls in the past 15 months from women complaining of all forms of sexual assault. But a policeman had told her that the average conviction rate in rape cases was one in 10.

Newcastle, which also received angry calls yesterday, said in its experience only one out of four women victims who contacted them reported

to the police. The number of calls had increased in recent months.

How do the rape centre reports square with such research as there is? Dr Richard Wright, of the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University, says that research studies vary in their estimates, from saying one rape in two is reported, to saying that only one case in a hundred is reported. He said: "Most criminologists would agree that rape is an unreported crime compared with burglary which is over-reported." In his own research in six English counties he found that the police "obviously do not believe a great number of the complaints made."

The police files he had investigated showed in 20 per cent of cases victims were not believed.

Dr Wright's study identified the social characteristics of rapists and rape victims. He found that 60 per cent knew each other before the rape; that the majority of both came from the working class; that rapists tended to be young, and to have a record of other crimes, but no previous record of sexual offences.

Research in West Germany and Sweden into the police interrogation of suspected victims of sexual molestation shows the direct opposite of the conclusion reached by the police in the film. Mr Ray Bull, senior lecturer in psychology at North East London Polytechnic, who specialises in witness psychology, said: "The research shows that victims who were found to have been telling the truth did give a lot of irrelevant detail. They found to have been lying often gave a lot of hard factual detail." Distress is not always shown overtly. "The factual filing system is often locked by emotion."

The research has led to changes in German police procedure. The police are encouraged to let the victim describe the events in her own words. "Police should not start strong interrogation until they have the full story and some time has elapsed," Mr Bull said. "It is easy to confuse witnesses by putting things in their minds so soon after an emotionally disturbing event."

Mr Tony Black, clinical psychologist at Broadmoor, took up the point that a woman in the programme had a history of mental disorder. "Speaking as someone who interviews people with such histories I would not have gone about it that way. It could have been put to her without piling on the agony. The fact that she did not react in an emotional way did not mean she was fabricating. As a former depressed person she might try and separate herself from emotional distress."

Mr Barry Irving, director of studies at the Police Foundation, who carried out two years' research on police interrogation for the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, said he had seen similar interviews to the one shown on BBC television but that they had to be placed in context. "I was struck how genuinely authentic it was, but I was also aware of what you miss by taking something like that out of context."

The police had to handle a number of cases in which false evidence was given. There was always a danger therefore that someone would not be taken seriously and would not get a fair hearing.

But at the end of a day in which the Prime Minister himself declared in the Commons that she shared MPs' concern about sentencing and police methods, a consensus did seem to have emerged that police officers had not done the job required and that women needed to be treated more sympathetically.

And on sentencing Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, Conservative MP for Tiverton, stepped forward with a Private Members' Bill to require the courts to pass a custodial sentence of not less than 2 years on any man convicted of rape, which Mrs Thatcher agreed was an odious crime. He rapidly gathered support from Labour and Conservative members.

When Churchill sent Harold Macmillan to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning in 1951, he said it was a gamble. It will make or mar your political career. But every humble home will bless your name if you succeed."

Macmillan built houses. He also shook up his civil servants and transformed the functional basis of his Ministry. It became the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Michael Heseltine, sent unwilling by Mrs Thatcher to the old Ministry's successor, the Department of the Environment, was given no brief to build. He has been fighting hard in Cabinet for the devastated construction industry; his own controversial creation, the urban development corporations for London and Liverpool, have already broken sods and poured concrete. But housing starts are at a post-war low and DoE officials responsible for house-building refer to their work as "90 per cent damage limitation."

On the municipal front, the ratepayers, the Tories' traditional friends, have yet to bless Mr Heseltine's name. But still his career has not been marred, and may yet be made by what has been happening within and around the DoE.

His rhetorical battle for cost-effectiveness in Whitehall and in town and country has begun to educate and influence all but the most incorrigible Labour high-spenders. Environment Secretaries before him have all said the party was over; Mr Heseltine seems at last to be believed.

Heseltinism is changing the shape of the DoE, slimming 15 per cent of total staff between April 1979 and November last. Tight management has arrived in the shape of his Management Information System (MINIS) and the civil servants like it.

DoE's most important, Mr Heseltine, helped by the pressure of political and economic circumstance in recent years, has refashioned the role of the DoE. In effect it is a new ministry, one central to the political economy of the modern welfare state, akin in its sphere to the Treasury in the wider world: a ministry of local government finance.

Two examples illustrate the nature of the department's transformation. One was visible to anyone standing on the corner of Parliament Square one day last month. A procession of middle-class mums, placard-waving teachers, children out of school and all the usual flotsam of London political demonstrations wound its way to Westminster to lobby against school cuts, and for the preservation of the Inner London Education Authority.

But the chants of these educational protesters did not concern the Secretary of State for Education. The day's political hate figure was Michael Heseltine. It is evidence of the central place the DoE now occupies that its abstruse Local Government Finance Bill of last autumn should have mobilized the ILEA's political shock troops.

The other example is of the DoE's importance at the heart of the public expenditure process. A secret Committee code-named MISC 21 and chaired by Mr William Whitelaw, sat early last autumn, as every year, to cost various policy assumptions. The DoE's arithmetic

preoccupied it. One of DoE's brightest deputy secretaries, Mr Terry Heiser, often steals the show by his mastery of the rate support grant figures — complex calculations that have become one of the great annual feasts of the political-economic calendar.

The department that Mr Heseltine has refocused, of course, retains all its great array of functions: "a loose, baggy, monster" in the words of one official, that swallowed up a host of ancient and modern responsibilities when it was created by the Heath Government.

DoE is the inheritor of the old Office of Works and so employs the Beefeaters who parade at the Tower of London with the snow-bellied police in Stonehenge. The DoE's own tower block bearing down on Marsham Street is no recommendation, but the department has important aesthetic responsibilities. Within the 20,000-strong empire are professional planners (now with a jaded, dated air about them); engineers; and pollution specialists. DoE does water, nuclear waste, and rural life. Poor Mr Heseltine landed with the snow.

DoE is a weather department and covers sport too. But its essences are elsewhere. Once it covered the green fields of Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Essex and the towns run by corporations completely subordinate to a DoE directorate. An important segment of the department's rising civil servants joined it in the 1960s when the new town and reconstructionist ideas were rampant.

Now they do not seem to have lost that optimistic belief that a well-built environment can make men good.

## Sense of crisis teamwork

Yet some of those same civil servants caught up last summer in the response to Toxtheth did seem to embody a departmental spirit. During the extraordinary fortnight between April and May, Mr Heseltine, Mr Peter Harrop, the Second Permanent Secretary, and other officials, a visitor to their temporary headquarters high above the River Mersey in the Royal Liver Building could not help but be impressed by the sense of crisis teamwork, of common departmental aims.

These have to do, first, with the belief that there is a built, "environmental" element in welfare state provision. That, crudely put, the louts rioting on Parliament Street might have behaved differently if their homes had been differently built, repaired (or, the current conviction of ministers and officials, better managed by the local council).



The DoE offices, nicknamed the 'toast-rack'.

The second departmental aim is one hotly disputed by the many critics of DoE's ministers and civil servants in local government. The DoE's essence, according to a general agreement among senior officials, is its relationship with the 450 proud and completely subordinate local councils.

At its most neutral (the phrase comes from Mr George Moseley, Permanent Secretary) here is one level of public administration in conversation with another. More rarely, the DoE is Whitehall's shopfront with councils.

Both officials and ministers are unhappy with the suggestion that DoE is some kind of advocate for councils in the courts of Whitehall. Not councils' interests, Mr Tom King, the minister in Mr Heseltine's closely-knit team, who has responsibility for local government said, but councils' "best interests" are what DoE has at heart. The phrase is telling. In reality, DoE's role is to supervise and interdict.

This role of overlord is best seen in the DoE's seven regional offices. It sends senior civil servants — of Under Secretary rank — out to the provinces as regional directors and they are undoubtedly powers in the land. Mr David Pickup, now in charge of housing finance, was recently in charge of the North-east region. He does not look like a district commissioner. But where councils failed in their responsibilities, he commented, "intervention" by the regional office becomes necessary.

Allegations about "intervention" have been at the heart of the propaganda war that has been waged as the financial strategy of the present Government has hit councils. But to attribute to DoE officials motives of

bureaucratic aggrandisement (which both councillors and their officials often do) is naive.

Mr Heiser, the arch-demon in many municipal scenarios, says the mere idea of central officials taking responsibility for endless local decisions and all the minutiae of municipal corporatism fills him with horror.

## Powers in the land

What has gone wrong since 1979 is explained partly by the nature of DoE's inevitable relationship with councils. It naturally works according to formulae, general equations that obviate the need for 450 different sets of calculations and assessments.

But the Conservatives came to power intent on redressing what they claimed were political imbalances: between the Tory counties and the Labour cities; between the few undeniably profligate (and Labour) councils and the many reasonably well run authorities.

DoE officials did not, in May 1979, open their bottom drawers and pull out well-laid plans. "To think of chaps producing ready-made plans for this Secretary of State is nonsense," said one.

What they did do — without conspicuous success — was to try to accommodate the new, essentially partisan political aims within a neutral administrative envelope (the new "Block Grant" system). At the same time DoE as a surrogate Treasury imported the policy of treating all council expenditure as "public expenditure" under the same macro-economic category and set about reducing the total. The result was a political mess.

A low point came last autumn. Mr Geoffrey Chip-

perfield, a haughty, old-style official entrusted with the drafting of a latest attempt to clamp down on "high-speeding" councils, failed apparently to advise also of the profound political and constitutional difficulties of such a step.

Following a successful experiment at Coventry, the idea of referenda as a prerequisite for rates increases was written into the Local Government Finance Bill during the summer Parliamentary recess. It was when Mr Heseltine (who showed an uncharacteristic lack of political sensitivity during the episode) was deprived of feedback from MPs. The Bill floundered when Parliament assembled.

It is noteworthy that during and since the debacle of the Local Government Finance Bill, Mr Heiser has begun a series of tours of the town halls, not so much to build bridges as to sharpen the DoE's intelligence network that had let them down.

Despite the controversy, the parliamentary setbacks, and despite the cuts, the DoE's officials seem, at present, self-motivated, even cheerful. This has much to do with the feeling that Mr Heseltine's period at the department has been successful as well as exciting and might just "make" him in the Macmillan sense.

Since May 1979 he has introduced a strikingly personal note into the management of the DoE. His business career has left him, as a political administrator, with a strong managerial ethos. Aided by MINIS he has become a kind of super executive in the department. Officials have liked and readily responded to his style even when the objectives have been cutting civil service numbers.

His Management Information System has, simply, to do with knowing who does what and — as the system evolves — at what cost. It has to do with simple information, based on a sense of value for money, but novel in Whitehall, and in other parts of the public sector. If he could get similar systems and principles operating in Britain's town halls he would achieve more than any other minister in making a success of this Government's public expenditure policies. He would then feel even better than Harold Macmillan's career path, through the Treasury to No 10.

How many staff?			
	1979	1981	%
Department of the Environment (central directorates)	11,594	9,828	-15.2
Local councils in England and Wales	2,104,080	2,014,521	-4.2

Local Authority Spending in England (constant November 1979 prices)				
	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Current	13,332	13,720	14,079	13,569
Capital	4,120	3,552	3,535	2,778
Total	17,452	17,272	17,614	16,347

## Women build Delhi's new masterpiece

A woman drops from the line of skinny labourers being moved off work to concrete in baskets on their heads. She retrieves her scrap of a baby from the ragged children babyminding in the dust, squats near the clanking concrete mixer and draws the child to her breast. After a while she wipes her face, hands him back and returns to the relentless rhythm of the line; for a few rupees a day and the greater glory of India.

There are thousands like her in Delhi today. An army of more than 100,000 labourers is taking part in the Indian capital's extraordinary convulsion, the greatest building operation since the imperial masterpiece of New Delhi was grafted to the ancient city between 1911 and 1938.

Labourers work day and night building stadiums, apartment blocks, hotels, roads and flyovers for the 1982 Asian Games in November.

When work is over they return to the rough huts and torn tents in one of the dirty, overcrowded and unhealthy workers' camps which dot the city.

There are cranes, bulldozers, pile-drivers, mixers and other machines, but a large part of India's prestige project is being built by muscle power and bare hands. What the Asian work is completed it will be a monument to Indian labour.

Critics say it will also be a monument to Indian vanity. They complain that the country's priorities are obvious: that the labourers themselves, living in

hideous shacks, with poor or no-existent medical care and dirty water supply, show only too clearly where India should be investing.

Defenders of the project say prestige is important and that the work is a welcome development boost for Delhi and the provider of much needed employment.

No-one can say how much the Asian and associated construction will cost. The figures are too slippery. But it seems it could be anywhere between £100m and £400m.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime

Minister, has said candidly that the price "seems a bit steep" and that if she had the choice today she might not have agreed to India's staging of "the Asian" "We were not aware of the state of affairs we had inherited."

But the concrete is being cast. Ingenuity, determination and hard work are the keys in the race to ensure that everything will be ready for Mrs Gandhi to open the 15-day games on November 19, her 65th birthday.

Critics say the building work started too late and they have

expressed reservations about building standards. The recent collapse of a road bridge under construction led a newspaper to voice concern at "the possible consequences of erecting massive structures at breakneck speed... at this rate there will be hell to pay."

Earlier, concern about the design of the roof of the indoor swimming stadium led the authorities to call for expert opinion. The judgment was that the roof might collapse. The stadium is now open and one.

The authorities have constantly asserted that no corners are being cut, that there is no compromise on standards of construction and materials.

Meanwhile, the labourers, men and women, file endlessly up and down on the construction sites with their loads of cement, bricks and rubble, while their children patiently mind the babies.

Most workers are migrants drawn from the countryside by the prospect of a long spell of work. Many get about £3.30 a week after giving some of their pay to the overseers who recruit and bring them to Delhi.

A survey by a civil rights group in the capital says that many workers are paid less than the legal minimum, have poor water and medical facilities and live, vulnerable to disease, in hovels and shacks, while contractors break safety codes and labour laws with impunity.

Trevor Fishlock



Women labourers on a bridge at the Asian Games stadium



THE ARTS

Interview

Television  
Carter's last stand

The largest financial deal in history, \$8,000m in gold and securities to be transferred from the United States to the Bank of England and subsequently, less debts, to Iran and, at the last moment, it is all in the hands of a typist who cannot read English. It is the kind of predicament only reality can produce and it was one of the many elements that made BBC 1's 444 Days and Counting, a compelling, almost ineluctable piece of television last night.

Most of the action was in President Carter's office, which he was under notice to quit in five hours' time. He had hopes of completing the transfer and having the 52 hostages who had spent 444 days in captivity released during his term of office. It was not to be. No rituals are more inexorable than those concerned with money, as anyone who has tried to get a traveller's cheque quickly knows.

In the Oval Office, President Carter, changing from jumper to jacket and back again, telling Rosalynn how things were, on and off the phone, exchanging small talk with a squad of advisers, all eager to help and helpless. When Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, started to measure flying distances on the globe, it was obvious that the great good technology was sitting this one out.

A lone television cameraman, Rolfe Tessem, filmed it all, while the shutters of still cameras slurred in envy. It was an example of wide-open government to amaze posterity. The Bank of England came in for some stick early on. "We would like to know from the Bank of England," said Carter, "why they have held up our hostages an extra 15 minutes." Well they had not, had they? Kit McMahon, deputy bank governor, quite understood the tension, but he explained to Margaret Jay, collecting reminiscences of the day, how technical discussion about the value of gold and securities had gone on until the last moment; how, even when that was done, the form of the necessary certificate had to be agreed... then there was that typist.

There was another kind of tension in BBC 1's *Skin*. Today, Under The Skin, Janey Preger's mordant look at the disruptive effect of feminist ideas on women's lives. Frances Tomelty was the fashion editor, feminist but not prepared to dress down for it. Barbara Rosenblat the woman who was, Jacqueline Tong the mother whose problems did not seem to come from feminism and who was last seen taking a lethal dose of pills.

It was well written, well acted, especially by Bill Nighy as the idiot fashion photographer, and confirmed my belief that it is best to approach women in boiler suits or ponchos with caution. Arena, BBC 2, gave us a hymn to the Cortina, now nearly 20 years old, on its way out, and for most of its years the ultimate ambition — in conjunction with a sheepskin coat — for so many road reps. It was imaginative at times almost to surrealism, was produced by Alan Yentob and directed by Nigel Finch, and, of course, did the Ford Motor Company no harm, though it might have caused them a worry or two about the Cortina's successor.

The Cortina's successor on BBC 2 was Beardsley and his work, a brilliant little documentary written and produced by John Selwyn Gilbert, whose play, *Aubrey*, will be on the same channel on Friday.

Let me not know why Tuesday tends to be so beloved of programmers — maybe they could spread a little happiness — but the marvellously illustrated story with nearly all original drawings, was a graphic treasure.

In addition to the drawings, there was Bridget Brophy to reflect on his infantile sexuality, Brian Reade and Ralph Steadman to observe his innovative and still not entirely understood techniques, and a consultant

psychiatrist to speculate on his transvestite impulse.

Beardsley, who died after a fevered life at 25, had more than his fair share of the ills that flesh and mind can be heir to. How paradoxical that this "monstrous orchid", as Wilde apply if unkindly called him, should produce from such a ferment, so extraordinary a talent which, *The Times* adding then, saw as "repulsive and unintelligible."

Steadman: observing

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Victoria Wood: leaving the one-liners behind



Victoria Wood at Brown's: "I've been a woman and I'm one half of a couple."

Victoria Wood is hoping her new comedy series for Granada will get the one-line gags out of her system. She also hopes going on the road with her husband will make him famous. And after all that she might settle down to write a new play in the autumn to follow up her three previous television triumphs. She spoke to Bryan Appleyard about the problems of being able to do only one thing at a time.

The lady who brought you *coq au vin* as love in a lorry is worried about the ease with which she turns out one-liners. The same lady, who also wrote "I want to be fourteen again", wants to write a great song and to be able to invest lines like "pass the mustard" with real meaning.

She is, of course, Victoria Wood, who ambled drily back to our television screens last Sunday with a five-show series of *Wood and Walters*, another alliance with Julie Walters. After that she goes on the road with *The Great Soppendo*, otherwise her magician husband Geoff Durham, with their show *Funny Turns* which reaches the West End in April. All of which means that Miss Wood, who sadly admits she can do only one thing at a time, has not been writing any plays, a significant loss for anybody who saw *Talent*, *Nearly a Happy Ending* or *Happy Since I Met You* on television or *Good Fun* on stage. But there is hope.

"I think I'll lock myself away and write a stage play in the autumn," she told me. "With my last stage play I think I got a bit clever. I'll try something simpler this time. I need to develop my craftsmanship. One-liners are easy, getting a gag from the rhythm of words, but making sense of a line like 'pass the mustard' is difficult. I don't think I'm very good at that."

At 28, there is clearly time. Yet even if the mustard remains infuriatingly meaningless, a thick pragmatic streak in her make-up tells her she can always fall back on her one-liners and her performance. For now, she hopes the television series has got the gags out of her system and three autumn months should result in a play. Pragmatism emerges again with the husband-and-wife show which she sees as developing *Soppendo*'s career so that between them they should achieve something like steady earnings. She has even accepted the possibility that she might have to leave her beloved Morecambe.

Behind all this lies an uncertainty stemming from the structure of her career. Having won the television talent contest *New Faces*, she appeared on *That's Life*, a largely unhappy memory, but really did nothing for three years until the play *Talent* had the word genius being carelessly thrown around.

"I feel so guilty about those three years. I signed up and did nothing. People saw me on *That's Life* and thought that was fine but they didn't actually want me to do that anywhere else". But the plays resulted in a higher-brow brand of

celebrity, though both she and her audience still have some difficulty identifying where she stands in the cultural class-structure. Further uncertainty arises from the death of Peter Eckersley, the producer of all her television work and who should have produced this new series. "He had lots of ideas for the series... but he never told me what they were. His value to me was inestimable. He had a marvellous eye for what was unnecessary and great attention to detail. He had liked the first material for the series but never saw any of the other stuff."

Her need for a strong injection of critical talent is still being fulfilled by Julie Walters — "She makes me laugh and she's good at her job, she's got great technique". In a sense it was a partnership that matured with *Happy Since I Met You*, a play that showed they did not rely on gags and that one-liners could be more than funny. Without that her recent playwrighting inactivity may well have been put down to the exhaustion of her material on unhappy, frustrated and incomprehending women, preyed on by inadequate men.

On our first trip abroad together, to Spain, it poured all the time so Geoff and I read *Office Life* to each other. I wrote the fan letter once when I woke off from writing in the middle of the night and read an article of his in a magazine. Like me he's a jolly person who writes about sad things. My dark side always comes out. It's funny because it's not how I feel when I wake up in the morning. But I suppose you can't make a joke about how much you love your husband, it wouldn't get a laugh."

Galleries

Subtleties at second glance

109th annual exhibition of watercolours and drawings

Agnew's

It must say something for the endless riches of the English watercolour tradition that Agnew's can have been putting on shows like this for 109 years and do not yet seem to be anywhere near scraping the bottom of the barrel. And that, even though the greatest majority of the paintings on view still, were done well before 1873: though obviously the tradition has continued even up to our own day, this part of the gallery's activities has little truck with its past mid-Victorian times.

Exception is made, of course, for the odd really striking late Victorian piece, like Briton Riviere's splendid black chalk drawing of *A Greyhound*, and even the occasional flash of shameless modernism like a couple of Shepherd's drawings for *The Wind in the Willows*.

But this is not the real

point of the show. It is designed to show off primarily that kind of small watercolour landscape which foreigners mostly think dull and which does, admittedly, tend en masse to look a trifle monotonous, with its subdued colour and tasteful washes. But only on first glance: you have to look again, look slowly, and conceive of them one at a time as things you could bear to live a lifetime with rather than such as might instantly catch your fancy on the crowded wall of an art show. Seen in that light, they soon begin to reveal their subtleties.

Inevitably one notices the big names first, and this year they do not disappoint: the Turner vignette, as brilliant now as the day it was painted, of a pet subject (he was, after all, a first hand witness), *The Burning of the Houses of Parliament*, perhaps claims pride of place, but there is also a very fine Cainsborough, the *Wooded Landscape with a Cow*, and a Girtin, of the wrecked flank of *Conway Castle*, which sums up in the smallest

possible compass a whole world of Romantic melancholy on the subject of ruins. Some of the lesser figures also impress. James Holland's *The Rialto Bridge, Venice*, applies an already Victorian sensibility to a backey view, in which the artist seems much less interested in the famous outlines than in the people in the shadow underneath. William Turner of Oxford's *The Moon Rising over Cader Idris* is an interesting study in near-monotone, almost abstract but for the odd tag to give scale, and Edward Duncan's *The Coast at Shoreham* might almost be an illustration of Peggotty's boathouse in *David Copperfield*, as well as being an accomplished picture in its own right by an oddly neglected artist.

For connoisseurs of Victorian art proper there is a rare picture, *The Door Way*, by Rossetti's friend James Smeetham, and for connoisseurs of Georgian art improper there are some spirited Rowlandsons. But it would be hard not to find something to like, if only you have time to stand and stare.

John Russell Taylor



Black chalk drawing by Briton Riviere

Jazz

Herbie Mann

Ronnie Scott's

As the first man to make a living from playing jazz on the flute, Herbie Mann has shown a consistent ability to appeal to those listeners who would like to be jazz fans but who would run a mile from the sounds of Charlie Parker or Ornette Coleman. His method has been to combine jazz-like improvisation with fol-de-rol from sources either ethnic or fashionable: once the backdrop was Cuban drumming, later it became Muscle Shoals rhythm and blues, and so on.

Mann's latest project, which he calls his Percussion Theatre, is a quartet featuring Frank Gravis on bass-guitar, Bobby Thomas Jr on percussion and Badal Roy on Indian tabla drums. The basic procedure is simple, and is strongly reminiscent of that employed by the trumpeter

Jon Hassell on his recent *Fourth World Music* recordings: Thomas and Roy instigate a light, frothy fusion of African and eastern rhythms, Gravis lays down a harmonic carpet (often using modal patterns which hark back to the influence of John Coltrane or psychedelic rock), and Mann twitters on top of the resulting confection.

Some of the individual components are admirable. Badal Roy, who once recorded with Miles Davis, seems to western ears utterly typical of his breed: the fingers flitter over the skins and each stroke of the flying cross-rhythms is crisply audible. Asking him to subdivide a simple 4/4 is like inviting Barenboim to play "Chopsticks". Thomas, too, shows imagination and restraint, using his hands on congas, cowbell and cymbals to colour the flow.

Gravis, a nimble performer, joins the list of bass-

guitarists — Jack Bruce, Colin Hodgkinson, Percy Jones and Jaco Pastorius — who have expanded the vocabulary of the instrument, although Gravis's contribution has to do with his use of a synthesizer attachment rather than his finger-work or his musical ideas. The synthesizer enriches the timbre and harmonizes the root-note, usually sounding like a swarm of narcotic bumble-bees.

As so often in his own groups, Mann is the weak link. His tone is unprepossessing, his phrasing creaky and his ideas third-hand or worse. The easy route is always taken to the audience's heart, whether in brooding Moorish cadences or passages which sound like a sequence of Air India jingles. In very few ways does this music justify meditative deliberation with which it is produced.

Richard Williams

Theatre

Stiff

Soho Poly

As the last play commissioned by Verity Bargate and the first production of the Soho Poly's incoming artistic director (Adrian Shergold); there is a strong temptation to crack up Tony Marchant's play, which also has the reviewer over a barrel by treating the sad theme of compulsory rehous-

ing. In one sense, *Stiff* is exactly what you would expect: a melancholy study of an old married couple who have been dumped on the fifth floor of a south London council block with nothing to do and nobody to talk to. Mr Marchant knows his people inside out and sympathy goes without saying. However, the piece is not drenched in compassion. As much as making the obvious protest against the destruction of community life, it shows in detail the effect of that loss on two of the victims. And the simple fact that they have been "fired away like sheets of paper" proves a more dramatic device than any event-filled plot.

Irving Wardle

Barbican opening

The Barbican Centre will be opened by the Queen on March 3 to herald four days of celebrations marking the completion of the £143m arts centre.

She will unveil a commemorative plaque in the foyer, and open two exhibitions. *Aftermath, France 1945-54: New images of man in the art gallery and Contemporary Canadian Tapestries* in the concourse — organized by the French and Canadian governments.

In the evening simultaneous performances will be given before invited audiences by the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Shakespeare Company in their new homes at the Barbican Hall and the Barbican Theatre. The LSO, under principal conductor Claudio Abbado will perform Wagner's *Meistersinger Overture*, Beethoven's *Fourth Piano Concerto* (with Vladimir Ashkenazy), Elgar's Cello

Concerto (with Yo Yo Ma) and Ravel's *La Valse*.

The centre will be opened to the public for the first time on March 4 from 10 am-3 pm, with *Contemporary Canadian Tapestries*, an exhibition of 22 pieces by artists from throughout Canada, open from noon.

The first public concert takes place on March 5 when BBC Radio 2 present a gala *Friday Night is Music Night* which will be broadcast live. Informal events in the foyer, which will be a regular feature of the Centre's activities, will take place throughout March 6 and 7. The LSO's first subscription season opens on March 8, and the RSC will give its first full public performance in Barbican Theatre. The Centre will be open with the exception of March 4, from 9 am-11 pm Monday to Saturday, and noon-11 pm on Sunday.

Christopher Warman

Les Contes d'Hoffmann

Royal Opera House

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cast, proving yet again how easily he can move between totally different approaches to the story of Hoffmann's three loves. In John Schlesinger's London version Hoffmann spends the Prologue and Epilogue as a wreck, as dishevelled and drink-sodden a tramp as he was in Patrice Chéreau's famous staging for the Paris Opera a decade ago. Yet Domingo, in sumptuous voice, also lets the poet be clearly seen through the boozy haze as the vision of Stella interrupts the legend of Kleinzsch, the story all the students in Luther's tavern demand to hear.

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Concerts

YMSO/Blair

Festival Hall

James Blair and his Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra went well over the top on Monday, with Richard Strauss's *Alpine Symphony*, the most extravagant instrumental of all his symphonic poems. Our major orchestras can seldom afford to engage the extra players required for the *YMSO* (just under a year ago), but the pool of student instrumentalists available, and doubtless delighted at the opportunity to perform this *Monstrous Sacre*, made it excellent fare for the YMSO.

While they had all those players, they added Strauss's *Festival Prelude*, enticing Josephine Barstow out of the opera house to sing Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, thus making an all-Strauss programme.

Mr Blair is a dab hand at post-romantic pre-1914 music, Mahler, Elgar and their contemporaries. He clearly enjoyed projecting the empty jubilation of the *Prelude*, building climaxes out of next to nothing, encouraging his vast and brilliant brass department (which the composer strongly advised against), then welcoming the extra trumpets, disposed in one of the hall's boxes, who are added towards the end, like Pelion on Ossa.

The *Alpine Symphony*, a much more substantial and imaginative work, was given a likewise fervent account, the offstage brass band as loud and clear as I can remember. Strauss's frequent string slides (another Mahler feature) were tastefully played down, a mistake. There was a great deal of sumptuous, and sensitive, well co-ordinated playing, to give one confidence in our orchestras for years to come.

William Mann

Giuranna/Brown

St John's/Radio 3

Unless they were simply carrying large quantities of sandwiches, the instrument cases brought by several members of the audience to

the BBC's lunch-time concert on Monday suggested a keen student or professional interest in the programme given by Bruno Giuranna, a viola player of experience and distinction, with Ian Brown at the piano. Building a recital of viola music to the right timing of a radio programme without resorting to triviality can be a problem, but it was achieved on this occasion with interest and ingenuity.

It centred on the *Lachrymae* by Benjamin Britten, whose chamberworks are a linking theme in most of this weekly series, and who took time away from a spate of vocal composition to write this viola work originally for William Dowland. Even then the stimulus of verbal as well as musical poetry was close at hand, for the piece is subtitled "Reflections on a Song of John Dowland" and the nature as well as the melodic theme of Dowland's "If my complaints could passions move" is a guiding influence on the music's expressive character.

Britten's conceit is that Dowland's theme emerges only at the end of his 10 variations on it, though it is foreshadowed at the outset low down on the keyboard, where I thought it too carefully emphasized.

The viola playing, however, had abundant virtuosity in the subtlety of its harmonic shading, and in a range of technique from the most delicate pizzicato in the second variation to the broad sweep of the bowing arm for the long phrases with which the composer exploited the viola's breadth of sonority in later passages, the Dowland theme finally emerging with quiet eloquence.

The players framed this first with Glinski, whose *Adagio* movement in D minor came from one of several unfinished chamber works of his youth. Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata* (D 821) in its transcription for viola instead of cello, solves the problems of high register at the expense of some sonority, beautifully pitched by Mr. Giuranna with attentive piano support.

Noël Goodwin

Opera

Les Contes d'Hoffmann

Royal Opera House

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By placing the Antonia act last, as Schlesinger does, it is possible to chart Hoffmann's descent down the slippery slope. And that Domingo

does with considerable skill. *Hoffmann* is not usually seen as a feminist opera, but there are not many works where man ends up so humiliated. The poet begins with youthful infatuation, seeing the doll Olympia quite literally through rose-coloured glasses; next comes lust with Giulietta; then finally there is just a tantalizing taste of love with Antonia before she is taken to her mother's voice (unattractively sung at Covent Garden) and promptly dies.

The disadvantage is that Hoffmann's part in the Antonia sequence is weaker than in the other two acts. After hearing Domingo in Giulietta's Venice scene "O Dieu! de quelle ivresse" with such suppleness of tone Antonia's Munich comes as

something of a let down. The effect is magnified in this revival: Antonia and Dr. Miracle both have powerful voices, but their acting is rudimentary and their French even worse. Schlesinger originally clearly cast with great care right down to the minor roles and in a production where detail, particularly in ensemble, is the order of the day those who either exaggerate or ignore the drama do so at their peril.

Even so the rest of the evening is mighty impressive. If Offenbach year did nothing else at least it reestablished in London and Salzburg *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* as the grandest of grand opera.

John Higgins



The council of the Confederation of British Industry will call today for a large increase in public spending

## Why Britain needs a New Deal

by Christopher Johnson

Fifty years ago Keynes opposed Treasury orthodoxy by advocating public works as a way out of the Depression. With hindsight, it looks obvious good sense. Yet when similar proposals are put forward for a public works programme in Britain today, the objections of the 1930s are as advanced as though Keynes had never lived.

It was Keynes's disciple, John Kenneth Galbraith, who coined the phrase "private affluence and public squalor" to remind the capitalist economies in the 1950s of the need for public investment on social as well as economic grounds. The Kennedy, Johnson and Wilson administrations of the 1960s took Galbraith's message to heart. Public investment in Britain rose from 7.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1962 to 10.4 per cent in 1967.

This may have been too high, but since then the pendulum, has swung to the other extreme. Public investment has fallen to only 5.6 per cent of GDP in 1980, and has dropped by 38 per cent in real terms between 1975-76 and the 1981-82 planned figures.

Capital spending should not take the lion's share of

cuts simply because it is the easy option", says Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. But both Labour and Conservative governments have over the last five years found it easier to cut public investment than public current expenditure on the pay of civil servants and local authority staffs.

With the Budget expected on March 9, the Chancellor has been urged to give priority to public investment by one study commissioned from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, and another commissioned from Cambridge Econometrics by the Federation and four other construction industry organizations. The Confederation of British Industry is expected to endorse similar proposals at its council meeting today.

The nationalized industries have suffered less than the rest of the public sector, with hardly any fall in their capital spending since 1975-76. They have put forward a number of projects which promise well over the 5 per cent real rate of return required from them by the Treasury. The much lower rate of return on their existing investment invites

scepticism about the promises.

As the Government has begun to recognize in some cases, this is an argument for either finding ways of making the nationalized industries more efficient or giving those promising projects to the private sector, either in competition with the public sector. It is not an argument for shelving projects such as telephone expansion or railway electrification if they clearly could pay off under the right management.

It is investment by central and local government and other public corporations that has been worst affected by public expenditure cuts. Because capital such as motorways and council houses either makes no charge to the public, or a subsidized charge, it does not bring a good rate of return. The returns are difficult to measure in money terms, and are often external to the project; for example, motorways reduce industry's transport costs, and urban renewal may help the social problems of the inner cities.

In an article entitled "Crumbling Britain" (September 1, 1981), *The Times* drew attention to the dangers of neglecting the public infrastructure. The Victorian sewerage network could be so high as to make the returns on doing so an attractive, indeed indispensable, use of resources.

The Government's failure to recognize the claims of the public sector other than the nationalized industries is demonstrated by the fact that its capital expenditure was cut by 14 per cent in real terms in the 1981-82 plans compared with the previous year, while that of the nationalized industries was increased by the same per-



The economist who got it right: Keynes by Low

centage. The total for both kinds of public investment was thus set to fall by 1 per cent. The actual fall is expected to be more, because local authorities and nationalized industries have both been subjected to such Treasury financial pressures that they have retrieved overspending on pay and other current items by underspending on capital projects.

The prospects for 1982-83 do not look much better unless the Chancellor takes steps to improve them in the Budget. The construction industry has been ill rewarded for a fall in its tender prices in 1981 by a cut in the cash allocated to water services, motorways and other projects, so that the volume of work is only maintained, rather than increased. This casts discredit on the whole new system of cash limits as opposed to volume controls, since it penalizes success in the battle against inflation.

The council house building programme has been the worst hit of all. Only about 85,000 public sector dwellings were completed in 1981, and only about 38,000 were started — a half and a quarter respectively of the 1975 figures. While a property-owning democracy is a worthy aim, the stock of council houses still required

will become dangerously low better than his undertaking to maintain activity on public housing in 1982-83 at approximately the same level as in 1981-82.

As a result of these cuts, public expenditure on construction has fallen by 35 per cent in volume between 1975-76 and the 1981-82 plans. Unemployment in the industry has risen to 25 per cent — 370,000 people — and a number of companies have been in difficulty. Public policy has had a disproportionately damaging effect on the construction industry. Although the Government has taken various measures designed to help, a steady prospect of an increasing book of public orders would be worth more than all the others.

The EIU study for the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors proposed a £2,000m increase in public investment in each of the next three financial years. As well as helping to create jobs in the construction industry, this would have "multiplier" effects on the rest of the economy. Unlike other possible job-creating measures, such as tax cuts or employment subsidies, it would also yield a permanent increase in Britain's capital base, leading to a more efficient economy

and higher living standards in the long run. Some "current" public spending, such as that on industrial training, can be justified in a similar way.

According to the EIU study, this relatively modest injection of purchasing power would add an average of 0.9 per cent a year to GDP, creating about half a million jobs, and 0.5 per cent a year to prices for each of the following five years.

With unemployment expected to exceed three million, most people might agree to trade nearly an extra one per cent of real output for only half a per cent of inflation, if that was the choice. However, any inflationary effects may be less than expected with so much spare capacity in the economy, and the Government could take offsetting measures to reduce inflation, such as freezing excise duties.

Like all ways of spending more public money, public works have to be financed. Studies indicate that the measures would be more beneficial if they were financed by allowing the money supply to rise rather than by more government borrowing. More borrowing raises interest rates, which has an adverse effect on output and employment, and government debt payments which lead to still more borrowing. The higher interest rates due to government borrowing also tend to raise the inflation rate by nearly as much as an increase in the money supply. (Smaller arguments would apply if the finance came from the private sector.)

The public works programme proposed could increase Sterling M3, the Government's chosen measure of money supply, by 2 per cent each year over the next five years. It might thus rise by 1 per cent a year instead of falling by 1 per cent a year as planned — unless other anti-inflationary measures are taken to reduce it.

The Government is now financing its Medium Term Financial Strategy, in which Sterling M3 is the main target. It should be made flexible enough to accommodate policy measures if they are judged to be desirable for every other reason save that they would interfere with a monetarist formula that has already been discredited.

The author is Group Economic Adviser, Lloyd's Bank.

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## The right to know what the computer has on you

by Michael Meacher

It is not well known that central government carries out 220 different functions involving computerized personal information about identifiable individuals. Yet, except for credit reference files, there is no legal right for an individual to see the files kept on him or her. This is a serious matter because it can — and not infrequently does — lead to a person being prevented from obtaining goods on hire purchase or acquiring a credit card or more seriously, finding his promotion blocked or even being denied a job.

This may happen for one of several reasons. The file on you may contain information which is inaccurate, incomplete, out of date, or irrelevant. The information may have been collected unlawfully or by underhand means, or at least without your knowledge or consent. Other people may have access to information about you which you believed was stored on a confidential file. Or the information which you proffered for one purpose may, without your knowledge, let alone consent, be transferred to serve a wholly different purpose.

All of this matters when the British law on privacy is compared with standards elsewhere. In this country the use of most bugging devices and phone taps is not illegal. It is not a criminal offence to use deception to obtain confidential information, nor to pass that information to someone who should not be allowed to have it.

There is no right at present to bring an action on grounds of invasion of privacy, except for libel and breach of confidence actions which are anyway extremely expensive and hazardous. And even though the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does expunge certain convictions after a period of time, criminal records are still not secure from the prying of private agents or employers.

The recent case of Mrs Jan Martin illustrates this. She was travelling with her husband on the Continent and stopped at a cafe in Holland. There a lorry driver thought he recognized her husband as a member of the Baader-Meinhof gang and told the Dutch police, who passed the information to London.

Soon after Mrs Martin was dismissed without warning from her job with a film unit doing promotions for a company to whom the incorrect and supposedly secret information about the sighting in Amsterdam had been passed. It was only because her father happened to be a senior police officer able to use his contacts in Scotland Yard that the truth came out.

The scale on which personal information is collected, stored and transferred in modern society, whether accurately or inaccurately, is truly amazing. Most computerized government data banks contain between 10,000 and one million names. In the private sector there are more than 2,000 computerized data banks storing personal information in the insurance, banking and finance sector alone.

The anarchic consequences to which the present lack of regulation can lead is shown by the story of one credit reference agency, 1970 Services Ltd, which was taken over by a consortium of agencies with records on millions of people, was convicted for using its employees to collect confidential information by posing as

doctors, police officers, tax inspectors and social security officers. In 1973 it was bankrupt and two years later by another company which had acquired some of its files, for whatever purpose.

The coverage of data banks is very wide. Apart from credit references, it embraces records on supplementary benefit payments, VAT, vehicle registrations and driver licensing, television licensing, social work histories, registers of children at risk, educational and medical (including psychiatric) histories, blacklists, employment checks, references and fidelity guarantees, and Police National Computer data. In almost every category, the National Computer Centre, which has received horror stories from people all over the country demonstrating how the abuse of information has penalized them and damaged their lives.

Scotland Yard's computerized records on more than one million people contain as well as conventional criminal records, Special Branch files on political activists. It has only recently come to light from the shredding of files in Devon and Cornwall ordered by the Chief Constable, Mr John Alderson, that people were being entered on Special Branch records for no other reason than that they were anti-nuclear campaigners, opposed to blood sports, or supporters of the anti-apartheid movement.

The consequences affect not only individuals but the national economy. For one result is that British firms are seriously hampered in competing for contracts that involve the transfer of personal data across national barriers. The Swedish Privacy Board, for example, refuses to permit information about Swedish citizens to be processed in Britain because of the complete absence of privacy safeguards.

In 1978, the Lindop Committee recommended that an independent data authority should be set up to regulate and supervise this whole area. It has never been implemented. What is now needed is an Act of Parliament to enshrine certain key principles in legislation.

These should include:

• The requirement that no personal data bank must be kept secret.

• Legal controls on the methods used to collect information which must be entirely relevant and the minimum necessary.

• Information collected for one purpose should not be transferred for another without the person's consent.

• Individuals should have the right to see and correct their own files.

For all these purposes, a data protection authority should be established which is the whole of government. It would develop codes of practice which would be mandatory on all those involved in collecting and storing personal information. If these codes were transgressed the data operator would be liable to a fine or imprisonment.

Only then would British citizens be free of the information prison in which, often unknowingly, they are now interned.

The author is Labour MP for Oldham, West, and is presenting a 10-minute rule bill on data protection in the Commons today.

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Today a year ago was an extraordinary day. One remembers it almost, although not quite, as *The Times* said of the day that Yeats died: "as one thinks of a day when one did something slightly unusual".

A year ago today, in the unusual circumstances in which the Iranian hostages in Tehran were released, President Carter, defeated and humiliated, gave way to President Reagan, triumphant and confident.

But that is not all that is peculiar about today's anniversary. An unusual dimension is added by the fact that America is already celebrating the hundredth birthday of Franklin D. Roosevelt even ten days before it occurs. The museums are now putting the finishing touches to their exhibitions of his life. The journals are already writing about him, and everyone is asking: "Why can't we have a President like that?"

The contrast is made all the more poignant because Ronald Reagan tries to compare himself with Franklin Roosevelt. Following him, he has his own lead, his supporters call him "The Republican FDR". But it is President Reagan himself, in a television broadcast on Christmas night which has been intelligently republished by *The New Republic*, who shows how hollow the comparison is. Even his sympathetic interviewer was dumfounded.

It is not so much that President Reagan now wholly misrepresents the policies of President Roosevelt then; but that Roosevelt would never, but that Roosevelt would never,

have thought of justifying himself by comparing himself with anyone else. Roosevelt came to his time, a man whom his time needed, and acted in his time. He was comparable to Washington? As great as Lincoln? On a par with Wilson? He did not have the time to ask — or answer.

No-one likes to criticise President Reagan a year after he took office. For one thing, it is not popular to do so, and so not easy. Everyone would like him to do well everyone wants a strong and confident America; and anyhow he is just likeable. But with all that said, this man who promised to restore the spirit as well as the prosperity and strength of America, has left it as ill at ease as ever.

It is not only what he does, but how he does it; as if he does not care at all. It is not only the liberals who are angry at the way at which he seems to tread on the poor. It is the conservatives who feel embarrassed by the apparent lack of compassion or even awareness of the needs of the minds the rich being richer, but not at the cost of asking the poor to pay.

Why is it that Roosevelt, an aristocrat, was so generous in his vision? Why is it that Reagan, self-made, is so ungenerous in his awareness? Why did Roosevelt,



Another cowboy in the White House: Roosevelt by E. H. Shepherd (from Punch, April 1937).

who can never have pined for a crust of bread, know what it was to be hungry? Why does Reagan, who claims that he once did pine for a crust of bread seem altogether to have forgotten?

If one is to govern large countries, one cannot govern

them with smallness. I do not mean largeness only in space or population. Britain is in this sense as large to most Americans as the United States. It is not large enough to care for the poor; and an uncomfortable people will act small and uncomfortable on the world's stage.

The lack of a convincing foreign policy in the America of President Reagan, a year after he took office, is as disturbing to Americans as it may seem more obviously disturbing to its allies. America seems to be striking as wildly round the world now as it footed round it a year ago. This leaves Americans quite as uneasy as it clearly leaves others. The problem is here in this country.

There is a connection between domestic and foreign policy. Roosevelt acted confidently round the world — usually for the better, occasionally for the worse — partly because he acted confidently at home.

He made the Americans enter the world as the rich, the moderately well-off, the poor — and so brought one nation into the world. But can one make one nation feel it is one nation if one says that the poor in it do not matter?

Mr Reagan and his administration are flinging their arms about Poland quite as Mr Carter and his administration threw theirs about Afghanistan: with more noise, maybe, but no more effect. President Reagan is exposing as much American weakness and slatternliness in the world as President Carter did. So why did the world, adversary as well as ally, so trust President Roosevelt, as it did not and does them?

There are many answers. But in the end everyone comes down, as to bedrock, to the only one satisfying answer. He gave America confidence in itself by uniting it — a sense of its history and present and future — and he did so primarily by the social policies he pursued at home. In English terms, he was a Tory to the core. He said: "You cannot get the best out of the rich, unless you make the rich care for the poor".

All of this is missing in the America which President Reagan has sought to bring to life. America is made even more uneasy by the obvious growth of anti-Americanism in Europe. But the root of anti-Americanism abroad — and one is very aware of it in this country now — is always a dispirited Americanism here. It is when America is

## The 'truth' about Churchill and anthrax

Anthrax is a chilling word. It produces boils, fever, and severe breathing difficulties — all within three to five days. So it was no surprise that when the BBC's *Newsnight* programme last May alleged that, in a previously unpublished wartime memo, Winston Churchill had argued for the development, and use, of anthrax against German cities. It made headlines the next day in both the British and German press. *The Sun* said: "HORROR BID TO END WAR", the *Daily Express*: "BLITZ OF POISON". CHURCHILL PLANNED TO BOMB GERMAN CITIES WITH ANTHRAX.

Several historians doubted the validity of *Newsnight's* claim at the time, and said so. But in next week's *Encounter*, which seems to relish defending Churchill's reputation as much as some people seem to enjoy undermining his memory, Julian Lewis finally proves that the document *Newsnight* made so much of never existed.

The memo in question was supposed to have been written from the Prime Minister to the Chiefs of Staff on July 13, 1944. In it Churchill is alleged to have advocated "drenching" Germany with anthrax, bombs of which, allegedly had by then been carefully devised.

Lewis has now been through the relevant documents and concludes that *Newsnight* was misled or simply confused: there

was no such memo. What he shows is that Churchill asked for the Chiefs of Staff to consider mustard gas, a very different matter on July 6, 1944, and that they did so on July 13, 1944. As a result of that meeting the Chiefs considered the feasibility of anthrax but it was immediately dismissed as impracticable. There was never any anthrax bomb and Churchill did not know of the time about the discarded plans.

Lewis is an impressive debunking polemic but he raises an intriguing afterthought in his *Encounter* piece. There have now been three anti-Churchill moves — the bombing of Coventry, the "murder" of General Sikorski, and now the "anthrax bomb". Is there a link between these three distortions?

No sooner had the earnest journalist David and his uncle Maurice, professor of government and social administration at Brunel University, paid moving tribute to everyone in the Labour movement who helped their researches, than they found themselves on the receiving end of some heavy flak from Chris Mullin, the *Tribune* journalist and editor of two books on Tony Benn's philosophy.

Mullin, who is otherwise a leading light in the left-wing

## Family faction

The launch party for David and Maurice Kogan's exciting exposition of the turmoil what used to be Her Majesty's Opposition, *The Battle for the Labour Party*, turned into a delightfully fratricidal re-run of the real thing yesterday.

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Mullin, who is otherwise a leading light in the left-wing

## THE TIMES DIARY

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, Hugh Trevor-Roper, Ernest Hemingway and Mae West all have something in common. What is it? The answer apparently, according to Mike Fox, creative director of Cogent Elliott, the advertising agency which has masterminded the new Rolls-Royce advertising campaign, is that they have all at one time or another been Rolls-Royce owners.

For that reason their names are to appear alongside those of scores of other famous folk who have shared the same distinction in an imminent series of double page advertisements in the press.

Campaign for Labour Democracy and a self-confessed contributor to the turmoil in the party, and who was interviewed for the book by the authors, accused David of joining the CLPD (and shortly afterwards leaving it) for the narrow purpose of aiding his research. David muttered that he still believed in the principles of the CLPD and that his membership has merely lapsed; but he flourished even more when Mullin, 33, went on to suggest that he had performed the legwork for the book in order to furnish with "facts" his uncle's alleged prejudices.

The prospects for the book (rather coolly published by Philip Kogan, managing director of Kogan Page and otherwise father

and brother of the authors) were further hit by two divisive incidents.

Ken Livingstone (who had spent much of the time warning everyone who cared to listen as well as those who did not that transport would assume a place at the forefront of British politics) departed with Joe Haines, Sir Harold Wilson's former press secretary, both men apparently murmuring approval of Mullin's attack. Stunned, observers were treated to the spectacle of the two authors disagreeing about the aims and legitimacy of the so-called "outside Left" and the bias of the book, which is being published in paperback by Fontana.

The campaign, which will begin in our sister paper *The Sunday Times* later this month, consists of a full-page photograph of Rolls-Royce Motors' latest model, the Silver Spirit, published beside an extraordinary roll call of some of the most prominent names of the twentieth century.

Apart from The Maharajah of Cochin Behar and Lawrence of Arabia, one of the most intriguing entries in the list is that of the "unknown purchaser" in *The People's Republic of China*. This, I am reliably informed, subject to "absolute confirmation", is none other than Mao Tse-tung. I wonder.

Regrettably, my own name, quite correctly, does not appear.

On top of all that, Peter Kellner political editor of the *New Statesman* weighed in with an attack about the absence of the left-wing Militant Tendency from the Kogans' analysis. It all added spice to the wine and peanuts.

Book of Lech

While the eyes of the world continue to focus on events in Poland, Penguin Books have achieved a creditable coup in securing the Commonwealth rights to a new book on Lech Waleś, Solidarity's leader. The *Book of Lech* is a collection of portraits of the man by associates

and friends, was first published in Polish in Gdansk in 1981 when its print run of 135,000 copies sold out.

Subsequently a Polish commercial organization in Finland, acting on behalf of the original copyright holders, has managed to sell the rights to foreign language editions in another eight countries, including Britain. The British edition will be published in paperback and hardback by Penguin and Allen Lane this March with an introduction written by Neal Ascherson, the journalist who specializes in East European affairs.

Placido cries off

Placido Domingo, the opera star who is currently occupying the first three places in *The Times* classical Ten has called off his planned debut as a conductor in Britain. Due to conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in two concerts this weekend, he cancelled at short notice telling them he preferred to make his debut in opera and had been signed by Covent Garden to conduct *Die Fledermaus* in their 1983/84 season. Officials at the Garden said yesterday they had no prior knowledge of his withdrawal.

The RPO, for its part, says the cancellation may well have cost it heavily in sponsorship deals. But it has decided against taking any action in the hope of securing a future date with Domingo.

The concert's themselves, however, have turned out to be something of a bonus for the Garden. After a frantic search for a replacement conductor, and

having failed to secure the services of Witold Rowicki, who is not being allowed to leave Poland, it discovered, literally at the last moment, that Maxim Shostakovich was free for a few days and has flown him over to fulfil the "Tchaikovsky" First to what will certainly be sell-out houses.

Orders, orders

Bill Beaumont, a Cardiff-born former wartime RAF officer who now labours as an assistant secretary in the Welsh Office, is to replace another military gentleman, Sir Noel Short, as secretary to the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr George Thomas. Sir Noel, 66 yesterday, who was commissioned in the Indian Army in 1936 and served active service with the Gurkha Rifles on the North West Frontier of India, has organized Mr Thomas's busy life for 12 years. He plans to devote more time to his interest in photography. His successor's main claim to fame was as a contender for the television *Mastermind* title.

Play on words

We are only a few weeks into 1982 but I already have a candidate for the bad taste Advertisement of the Year. It was spotted by a reader in south London who reports that on Pearson's Corner, Acre Lane, an ad for the John Player Special brand of cigarettes. The ad reads: "Mind your blacks."

Peter Watson

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## PROTECTION ON A LEASH

The world is now closer to an outbreak of protectionism than at any time since the 1930s. The immediate cause is not cheap textiles from the third world or competition from the rapidly industrializing countries such as Taiwan or Brazil, but the strains amongst the industrialized nations themselves and the challenge of Japan in particular. The export success of Japan over the last decade has been one of the wonders of the postwar economy. While the rest of the world has weathered only with increasing difficulty the successive shocks of the oil crisis, Japan has gone on building ever larger trade surpluses and managing an ever more successful export drive abroad. First shipbuilding, steel and cars succumbed to its assault, then computers and electronics and now the newer markets for telecommunications and micro-electronics.

So far — and it is to their considerable credit — the governments of the West have hung on to their free-trade principles. At the talks between the trade representatives of the United States, the European Community, and Japan last weekend in Florida all the parties came out with the one firm commitment that they would not take unilateral action to curb imports at least for the next six months. They could not promise that they would necessarily hold back the demands for tariffs after that unless Japan could be seen to take effective action to reduce its trade balance.

The new Japanese Government held out that prospect at the talks, but the world has heard such assurances before only to witness Japan's trade surplus go on climbing. Last year alone its surplus (on its own figures) with the EEC was over 10 billion dollars and with the United States over 13

billion dollars. This year its overall surplus is expected to exceed 30 billion dollars. The dilemma which Japan's export success poses for its rivals is a delicate one. On the one hand, few would willingly embark on a path of open import controls which could spread with alarming effect. Nor does anyone doubt that much of Japan's success is well and honestly earned. For a country reliant on imports for most of its raw material, Japan has taken special care in developing its value-added manufacture and its exports, following the classic marketing policy of specialization and research. If it has been successful in exporting it is largely because it works to provide the products that the market wants at the price the consumer is prepared to pay. If Japan is relatively resistant to manufactured imports from the West it is at least partly because both the culture and the efficiency of the Japanese lead them to prefer domestic to foreign products. From their point of view, they have done no more than carry out the logic of international specialization which all western countries subscribe to, while their propensity to sustain high surpluses is a reflection of the self-sufficiency of their population not their meanness.

For countries at the receiving end of the Japanese export attack the picture is very different. Fair or unfair, the strategy of concentrating on certain markets and certain products and developing them with an effective pricing and distribution policy has a devastating effect, as the British car and hi-fi industry will readily testify. So long as the Japanese were moving most rapidly in older industries already faced with decline, such as shipbuilding, they could be held to be doing no more than accelerate inevi-

table structural change. Now that they are concentrating on the "sunrise" industries of the future, their ability to dominate the market and wipe out local competition becomes all the more threatening. Just so with Japan's consistent ability to run a trade surplus. It may reflect well on the self-restraint of the Japanese consumer. But it also increases the problem of recycling money at a time of massive oil producer surpluses. If Japan used its surpluses to invest more abroad and give more aid to the Third World, or if it encouraged freer movement of the yen to take off some of its competitive edge the consequences of its particular success in Europe and the United States would be more tolerable.

Japan must accept its wider responsibilities as a leading industrial nation in the world's trading system if it is to avoid a potentially disastrous round of counter-attack against it. So far it has played the game long — giving voluntary export restraint agreements abroad and tariff cuts at home only when and in so far as the threat of firm retaliatory action forces them to do so. Such a policy cannot gain it much more time. The political pressure from communities and industries laid waste by competition will force western governments to act, unilaterally or in concert. To forestall that the Japanese government will have to encourage its people in the purchase of imported goods, balance its trade advantages by allowing the yen to appreciate, and above all use its surpluses in foreign investment and aid to keep the funds flowing around the world. The alternatives are painful to contemplate in any country that saw the consequences of recession and protectionism in the 1930s.

## MAPPING FOR THE FUTURE

The Ordnance Survey is on the operating table again. It was a candidate for surgery in 1973 and again in 1977, though it escaped intact on both occasions. Now Mr Michael Heseltine means to effect the change that Mr Heath did not and reorganize it as a trading fund. This insistence on change by successive governments may seem puzzling in respect of one of the services the taxpayer is required to support of which he has reason to be proud. It is a necessary and in many ways exemplary piece of public enterprise. This week's meeting at the Royal Geographical Society, and our own correspondence columns, testify to the alarm felt by many of those professionally involved.

Britain is probably the best surveyed and best mapped country in the world, at a net cost last year of £21m, once earnings from copyright, map sales and so on are set against expenditure. The trading fund plan would have the purpose of enabling performance to be judged "in a commercial framework". Instead of subsidy through annual parliamentary vote, the Department of the Environment, in the role of customer, would enter into a contractual relationship with the survey. The Government is also considering the possibility of involving the private sector more fully in

the survey's work at a later stage. Like any other organization, the survey is no doubt less efficient in some ways than it might be. The Serpell report of 1979 recommended that it should get independent advice about managerial sharpening-up. But the survey as a whole can never pay for itself, and Serpell warned that attempts to improve productivity could become counter-productive in the wider sense if pressed too far. A comprehensive, consistent and up-to-date physical survey of the country is one of the basic pieces of data a modern society needs. It is necessary to the military, town and country planners, communications engineers, police and emergency services, and all those engaged in real estate transactions, as well as to historians, archaeologists, teachers, travellers, ramblers. Two-thirds of expenditure goes on maintaining the survey's ever-changing fundamental archive. A change to new technology, necessary in the long run, is just at the stage (often lengthy in such cases) where costs are high and benefits are all in the future.

Buyers of maps and users of copyright material now pay a share of the cost of the archive. The Government already has the power to set targets in this area, and prices

have risen sharply in recent years. But Serpell pointed out how wasteful it would be to discourage use of material so laboriously gathered, and to encourage commercial surveying services to duplicate work already done. Within the organization itself there is also a fear that management may fall under the control of civil servants without close knowledge of the field. The closer relationship with the private sector that Mr Heseltine spoke of, if it meant commercial surveyors maintaining the record as agents of the Ordnance Survey itself, might mean less consistency in criteria and standards.

Disciplines of cost-effectiveness are in general a healthy influence on subsidised enterprises. But where a public service is as successful as this one, the onus of proof must be on those seeking to change its basis. The scope for cost-saving in the service is not likely to be large, if it is to retain its powers of independent control over operations. Short-term economies in this field can have lasting effects: between the wars, public spending cuts compelled the survey to skimp work on basic maintenance of the archive for a period. This year the task of repairing the damage that was done then will finally be completed: but it has taken 40 years.

## FINLAND'S FREEDOM OF ACTION

The election of a new President of Finland is an event of more than passing significance to Europe as a whole. Dr Urho Kekkonen had held the office for a quarter of a century and throughout that time he had been seen, and had indeed presented himself, as the personal guardian of Finland's security as a free nation. Having a long frontier with the Soviet Union, that is not something that the Finns can ever take for granted. The Finnish constitution gives the President special responsibility for the conduct of foreign policy, but the importance of Dr Kekkonen went well beyond the necessary exercise of that prerogative because of the close personal rapport which he managed to establish with a succession of Soviet leaders.

So the choice of a successor involves more than a routine transfer of power. It is critical to Finland's future, and it enables the Finns to give some indication of what future they wish for themselves. That they have chosen Mr Mauno Koivisto, who has more than half of the votes in the electoral college pledged to him, is therefore of special significance. He was not the preferred candidate of the Soviet Union.

It had been made clear early in the campaign by the Soviet press that they wanted Mr Ahti Karjalainen, the former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, who had been President Kekkonen's loyal lieutenant for many years. But Mr Karjalainen was not even chosen as his party's candidate. Mr Koivisto had for many years been the popular favourite and the Finns were not to be diverted by any indication of a contrary Soviet preference.

This may be interpreted as a sign that they want the Kekkonen brand of neutrality, with its special sensitivity towards the Soviet Union, to be applied in a somewhat more independent spirit. But it is not an indication that they want to change the substance of that policy. They cannot afford to do so, and Mr Koivisto has demonstrated that he recognises that fact. During the campaign he referred to Finland's "efforts and preparedness" to promote the 1948 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in an active manner. For its part, the Soviet Union has not pressed its preference for another candidate, and in a letter to Mr Koivisto last week Mr Brezhnev made it clear that he wished to make the best of

the inevitable and establish good relations with Finland's next President.

Because of its exposed geographical position, Finland has to take special care to keep on good terms with the Soviet Union as the necessary condition for preserving its own freedom in other respects. President Kekkonen's historic contribution to his nation's welfare was that he made his countrymen recognise this truth. His historic error was in going too far. In order to safeguard Finland's freedom he smothered its spirit. He encouraged excessive self-censorship. He practised and demanded a degree of restraint that became stifling.

The hope must now be that Mr Koivisto will retain the essence of Dr Kekkonen's policy without the excess. Finland can permit itself somewhat greater freedom of expression and decision: Mr Koivisto's succession is proof of that. But it will be no kindness to Finland if its friends in the west fail to appreciate the limits within which any Finnish government is forced to operate. The election of a new president cannot remove the constraints that geography imposes on a country.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Clearing up Allied attitudes to the Polish crisis

From Mr Stephen Hastings, MP for Mid-Bedfordshire (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader on Poland (January 13) was indeed welcome. The attitude of the Foreign Office has been dispiriting, and at odds, so it has seemed to me, with the forthright words of the Prime Minister to Parliament. May this be due to a confusion about objectives?

Clear sight in foreign affairs is sometimes dimmed by a thick film of conflicting secret and confidential information and just as frequently by the exclusive application of some fashionable Foreign Office nostrum. It may not be surprising if reports from Poland are unclear at present but it would be inexcusable if the doctrine of European unity were allowed to obscure our duty as America's ally.

The unity of West Europe is of course desirable but surely the Communities were conceived by the founding fathers, including Churchill, upon the principle of liberty and its defence. Liberty is indivisible. Are the Poles not European? Did not go to war for Poland in 1939? And did we intend at Yalta that Poland and the other sovereign states of East Europe should remain in bondage for ever? European unity fashioned from a conspiracy to evade the truth is simply the unity of frightened sheep.

Our principal ally has a right to count on us when the challenge to everything we are jointly supposed to defend is serious. Haig has a right to berate us for our lack of response.

It is in the heroism and agony of the Polish people that the hope for our own freedom lies, not in some vacillating compromise. What is needed from West Europe now is an example — the sort of example we used to know how to set.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN HASTINGS,  
House of Commons.

use force against the Soviet Union? Presumably not.

Going along with measures which, in view of Soviet behaviour in Afghanistan and elsewhere might well have been taken in any event, such as additions to the COCOM (Coordinating Committee Controlling East-West Trade) list and tougher credits is one thing; measures actually involving force are another. Presumably also there would be little point in measures which would hurt the West as much as the Soviet Union.

In short, we are condemned for the time being to live with the redoubtable great Power in the East and can in no way compel it either to "liberalize" itself or to permit the liberalization of its contiguous satellites. Such relations as we have with it should result from a common policy taking into consideration the essential interests of all the members of the Western Alliance. This should include negotiations on this limitation.

Within such a policy we should certainly do all we can to foster the internal "contradictions" of Communist rule. One day, if the West solves its own social problems and reinforces its defences, the colossus will reveal its feet of clay.

But what about the Polish people? What can we do to help the latter by charitable means we should do. That does not include going to war on their behalf. True, we went to war for Poland in 1939, but even that did not result in her liberation — and it was before Hiroshima.

Today, East-West relations are essentially governed by the balance of terror. If, however, the West plays its considerable cards correctly, this will never result in the total absurdity of a nuclear holocaust.

Yours truly,  
GLADWYN,  
62 Whitehall Court, SW1,  
January 18.

From Lord Jenkins of Putney  
Sir, The claim that Poland was assigned to the USSR at Yalta is one put into Soviet mouths by Professor Ambrose (letter, January 15) rather than made by them in such terms. But what cannot be altered is the geographical proximity of the two countries.

One can imagine the uproar if

the USSR decided to introduce sanctions against the United States as a protest against US support of Latin American military dictatorships which have extinguished freedom and democracy in more than one country.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH JENKINS,  
House of Lords,  
January 16.

From Sir John Gielgud, CH

Sir, Having recently worked with the Polish director Andrzej Wajda, I have been much concerned for him during the recent crisis and can only hope that the rumours of his arrest are not true.

I am sure that the whole entertainment world will join me in wishes for his safety and a speedy opportunity of returning to the work which is such a valued contribution to the great artistic achievements of his country. Mr Wajda and his delightful wife accorded me a welcome and a hospitality which will always remain among my most cherished memories.

Sincerely yours,  
JOHN GIELGUD,  
Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten,  
Maximilianstrasse 17,  
Munich,  
January 13.

From Mr Louis Kentner and others

Sir, We the undersigned, writing on behalf of a large body of artists, scientists and men of letters of Hungarian origin, note with concern that 25 years after the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution repressive measures have been introduced in Poland by the military regime. According to reliable reports, terror is rampant in the country.

We urge the Polish authorities to release all political prisoners and let the social transformation initiated by the people of Poland continue.

The tragic events of Budapest in 1956 should not be repeated in Warsaw.

Yours, etc.  
LOUIS KENTNER,  
ANDRÁS KISS,  
PETER FRANKL,  
KATALIN SCHIFFLIN,  
3 Back Lane,  
Hampstead, N.W.3,  
January 10.

From Mrs Jane Brown

Sir, I agree that Charles McKean's "Lutynas: a chequered career" (feature, January 13) was valid, even if it did have the tone of being written after a disagreement. I am sure that the Lutynas exhibition committee and the other "wholesomely didactic" heavyweights of the polemic hardly need me to defend them, but I feel it should be said that there were members of the Lutynas Exhibition committee whose purpose was not so much to test as to share.

If "the main part of the Lutynas celebration is concentrated upon his pre-1914 co-operations" (they in fact of three "rooms" out of the exhibition) it is because of the quality of his work in that period. The two rooms of his later work here, rather than in New D, are a celebration of, rather than memorials to, dead and they are an affirmation of faith in our human scale rather than institutions of intimidation.

They are also, when the mists of envy and nostalgia are cleared away, beguiling and delightful works of art and creations of integrity rather than materialism, and we should be glad that someone as young as he had the money to pay for them so that we can enjoy them accordingly. I have spent quite a lot of my time in the Hayward Gallery during the run of the exhibition and my reward has been to overhear many, many people of all ages, kinds and educations doing just that.

I am Sir, Yours respectfully,  
A non-didactic member of the Lutynas Exhibition Committee,  
JANE BROWN,  
30 Skinkers Lane,  
Ashted, Surrey.

From Mr Michael Manser

Sir, The excellent article by Charles McKean (January 13) is the first to accurately put Lutynas into history.

He was a great architect, in his own time. But his time is past; so is the social and economic situation which created his clients and the materials and crafts from which he created their buildings. Now we have a new social and economic situation, a new kind of client, new materials and techniques, and thus there has to be a new architecture. And the current architects who have recognized this produce architecture of their time, which is the first ingredient of enduring architecture and timeless quality.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MANSEY,  
Michael Manser Associates,  
8 Hammersmith Broadway, W.6.

From Mrs E. T. Loran

Sir, Mrs Nadine Pegg's letter (January 18) prompts me to tell you that among a number of china plates painted by my grandmother is one depicting a snow house in the garden of Dewes House, Mere. In her book, *Putting the Clock Back*, she refers to three snow houses in one of which her mother got stuck, having ventured in wearing a crinoline.

These two earlier snowhouses could only accommodate a few at a time, but in the great snowstorm of January, 1881, a large one was built that could comfortably hold 16 people! ... It had a boarded floor, and we had tea inside it several times. (From *Putting the Clock Back*, by Agnes Yates, published 1939).

The original painting by my grandmother is dated January 23, 1881: the copy on the plate was made by her in 1916.

Yours sincerely,  
EILEEN LORAN,  
Crookgate, Chapel Knapp,  
Gastard, Corsham, Wiltshire.

### De la Tour's mixed fortunes

From Professor Michael Kitson

Sir, It ought to be a general rule that, while it is an art historian's duty to question things, for an Old Master painting to be judged a modern fake requires proof. Yet proof was precisely what Christopher Wright and Diana de Marly never succeeded in producing in the case of George de la Tour's "Fortune Teller" (*The Times*, January 8). All they did was to level a series of accusations at the picture, accusations which may have looked plausible and were no doubt advanced in good faith but which were, in fact, based on faulty reasoning.

As asserted in Edwin Mullins's film, *Fake?*, shown on BBC television last July, two new factors have now entered the equation on the other side: these were the technical evidence brought to light by the Metropolitan Museum and the inventory showing that the picture was in existence in the nineteenth century. Like Professor Blunt, I find these pieces of evidence convincing and I think it really is time that Mr Wright and Brian Sewell (assuming that I understand his bizarre simile about blue marmalade correctly) bowed to the inevitable and stopped trying to mislead the public into believing that this issue is still alive. In doing so they only make themselves look foolish.

Last autumn I saw the picture in New York after its recent cleaning, and when it is once more on public view it is going to be a revelation. The surface turned out to have been covered in yellow varnish and, now this has been removed, the tones, instead of being blonde and yellowish, come out as scintillatingly bright and silvery.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL KITSON,  
Courtauld Institute of Art,  
20 Portman Square, W.1,  
January 8.

### Lutynas exhibition

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Yours sincerely,  
EILEEN LORAN,  
Crookgate, Chapel Knapp,  
Gastard, Corsham, Wiltshire.

### Stable economies

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, John Barry's proposal (feature, January 14) that Western governments should abandon support for collapsing East European economies suffers from a serious flaw. His analysis of Polish debt and the implications of recent help for Solidarity, from too much generality. The Soviet economy is very far from collapse and that of East Germany, despite formidable industrial problems, arising from energy scarcity, is still maintaining respectable growth rates.

Mr Barry's glib reference to Hungary is especially unfortunate, since the Hungarian Government over the past two to three years has deliberately set an economic course based on a resolve not to incur the kind of substantial foreign debt that has helped sink Poland, and on the export profitability of efficiently-managed industrial enterprises.

Hungary has a surplus on its current trading account and is about to declare high industrial profits for 1981. Many of these companies, especially in the food and pharmaceutical-chemical industries, are regarded by European trading partners as being of a very high standard, and the country is seen increasingly as an excellent market

for European companies for industrial co-operation and joint ventures.

Since Mr Barry appears to be advocating a form of *Abgrenzung* or demarcation by the West, it is worth looking at the problems of East Germany. East Germany was to be included. West Germany would not support the proposal for obvious reasons, nor would some of the economic arguments Mr Barry urges generally in its support apply in the case of the GDR. The country's foreign debt is not considerable and its creditworthiness on commercial criteria (and what other criteria are there for judging this?) is high. The special economic relationship with West Germany (and Germany) is not extra cost; it is simply dissolved at the price of a serious political crisis in the Federal Republic.

There are no doubt serious political arguments for the policy Mr Barry advocates, but they are political and not economic arguments. Meanwhile, as he himself points out, Western bank and government lending to Comecon is at a virtual standstill and is likely to remain so for some time.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WOOD,  
Newbold Farm,  
Nundsbourne Abbots,  
Cirencester.

### An optical monopoly

From Dr B. M. Wright

Sir, Your leader (January 12) underestimated the case against the opticians' monopoly, which, as you indicated, is based on two arguments.

1. That, if all spectacles have to be obtained through opticians, sufferers from serious eye diseases will be detected at an earlier and more treatable stage. This is undoubtedly true, but the same argument could be used to prohibit the sale of painkillers without prescription because pain may be an early sign of many serious conditions, including some eye diseases. Using the opticians as a safety net is analogous to the role of the milkman, who fulfils a useful social function in the care of the aged and disabled, but no one would suggest that therefore the sale of milk in shops should be prohibited. 2. That wearing the wrong spectacles may damage the eyes. There is no evidence for this and few people will continue to wear spectacles for long if they get no benefit from them.

Your analogy with feet is interesting because bad footwear, particularly in childhood and adolescence, is the main cause of

foot disorders. A much better case could be made for setting up a "General Footwear Council" and prohibiting the sale of footwear except by registered "podiatrists".

In short, the opticians' monopoly causes a great deal of inconvenience and extra cost to the general public with very little benefit except, of course, to the opticians and I wish Lord Rugby every success.

Yours faithfully,  
B. M. WRIGHT,  
The Dial House,  
95 Uxbridge Road,  
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

### Desert reading

From Mr Paul Theroux

Sir, Instead of the thriller, Mark Thatcher might have been better off with a copy of *The Fearful Void* by Geoffrey Moorhouse published in 1974. It is the narrative of Mr Moorhouse's journey from Chinguetti (Mauritania) via Tombouctou (Mali) to Tamarasset in Algeria. Mr Moorhouse travelled these 2,000 miles of desert on foot.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL THEROUX,  
35 Elyngs Road, SW18.

### Closure of Invergordon

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist

Sir, In your leading article about the closure of the aluminium smelter at Invergordon, (January 8) you refer to the Highlands and Islands Development Board as one of the better quangos. I hope this is true, but there is a limit to what the board can do in the way of "priming the market place". Your own suggestion about increasing redundancy payments in the hope that a few employees might set up enterprises on their own is like firing a shot-gun at an elephant.

The relative prosperity of the Highland area in recent years has been due in part, only in part, to the creation and activities of the HIBD. To quite as large an extent, improvements in economic activity and in employment

have come about through the introduction of large-scale enterprises only indirectly influenced by the Board — the Invergordon smelter, the Corrach pulp-mill, and the back-up facilities concerned with the exploitation of North-Sea oil. Two of those three "outside" stimulants have collapsed, and it will not suffice to throw an extra £10 million (over three years) to the HIBD. I am sure the board will spend the money to maximum job-creating advantage, but the current economic set-back is far too gross to be met by such a small-scale expedient.

And the closure is not only an economic set-back — it is also a social set-back and a blow to morale which will be felt throughout the Highlands. No one in the Highlands was responsible for the false assumptions

which ruined the smelter project. The Highlands welcomed the project and did their best to make it prosperous for its owners and for the Government which supported it. A gesture is required on a basis not merely of generosity but of justice.

There is one obvious way in which the adverse impact of the closure can be minimised and in due course counteracted. That would be by a reversal of a recent Government decision, taken on a very narrow balance of advantage, to discard the plan for a gas-gathering system for North-Sea oil. The balance has now been altered, and the decision requires to be reconsidered.

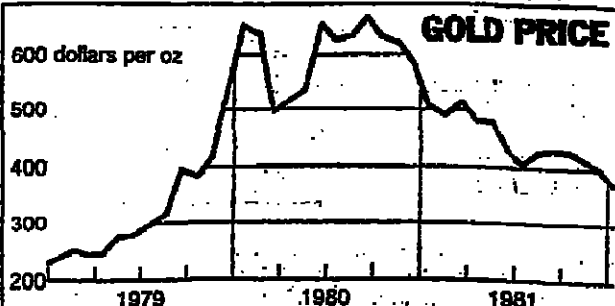
Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW GILCHRIST,  
Arthur's Crag,  
Hazelbank,  
By Lanark.







## BUSINESS NEWS



Gold was steady yesterday after its recent shake-out, recovering \$3 to \$375. The bullion price has started 1982 weakly, with investors taking the view that the metal is unlikely to shine while real interest rates continue at high levels.

### Nissan plant decision soon

Nissan of Japan is to make a final decision next month on its proposal to build a £300m car manufacturing plant in the United Kingdom. Mr Takashi Ishihara, the company's president, said in Tokyo yesterday that a feasibility study had put the project in a favourable light and "I see no special obstacles to our advance". He added that another company delegation is to visit Britain next month for a final round of negotiations.

### The race for Governor

Mr David Scholey, deputy chairman of Warburgs, appears to be slipping in the race to be next Governor of the Bank of England. Although he is well-favoured by the Prime Minister, the latest Government thinking is that it is too early for Mr Scholey, aged 46, to make the move. The Government, however, still seems determined to appoint a less established figure than Mr Gordon Richardson, the present incumbent.

### De Lorean aid to be reviewed

The Government is reconsidering the extent of its financial support for the De Lorean car company in the light of a slump in sales in the United States, its sole market. Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons yesterday that new export credit guarantees would be granted to the company for £10m up to May 31, and a further £5m up to August 31. This falls well short of De Lorean's demand for £26m immediately, and a further £10m in March.

### Belfast jobs go

Short Brothers, the State-owned Belfast aerospace company, is to make 650 workers redundant, about one tenth of their labour force, because of the continuing world airline recession. The company is also considering the closure of its Belfast plant, which employs 1,200 workers.

### Access cuts rate

From the beginning of February, the Access credit card company is to reduce from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent the maximum commission charged to smaller garages, about half the total of petrol retailers taking Access cards.

### Electronic mail

British Telecom has gone into partnership with the American company DIALCOM to provide an electronic mail service. Customers will be able to dial a computer bureau using their own terminals to send letters or messages to any other clients linked to the system.

Many companies profits could benefit from the recent weather. Page 14  
MEPC's decision to raise £62.3m has upset the City. Business Editor. Page 15  
Chartered accountants are often ignorant of the problems of modern management says Adrienne Gleeson. page 15

## MARKET SUMMARY

### Strong day for shares

The FT index of top 30 shares had its best day so far this year rising 11.2 to 545.9 as the chances of a miners strike weakened. Blue chips did well. Among those to benefit were Glaxo up 12p to a new high of 486p, Blue Circle 8p to 522p, Grand Metropolitan 9p to 385p, Unilever 10p to 636p, Hawker Siddeley 10p to 324p and Reed International 12p to 296p. Buyers were also chasing Imperial Group, up 24p to 75p, in the hope that it will be able to maintain last year's dividend of 6.4p gross when the figures come out in a few weeks. Overseas Freighters, possibly Mr Faisal Hashim, bidding 80p a share. Mr Hashim at present holds 17.23 per cent, including 3.7 per cent bought in a recent dawn raid, and is soon expected to make a full bid for the rest. But the market expects him to raise his price to between 75p and 85p a share, valuing the company at £45m. Over 500,000 of Delta Group changed hands, with the price rising 2 1/2p to 47p. Much of the buying has come from institutions attracted by the income. The current yield is 11.7 per cent. An early feature was the £62.3m rights issue announced by MEPC which saw the price tumble initially to 200p. But the favourable terms of one-for-five at 180p helped it to bounce back to 214p, for a net fall on the day of 11p. Elsewhere, in properties, better than expected trading news put

## Hopes for Budget cuts in borrowing burden

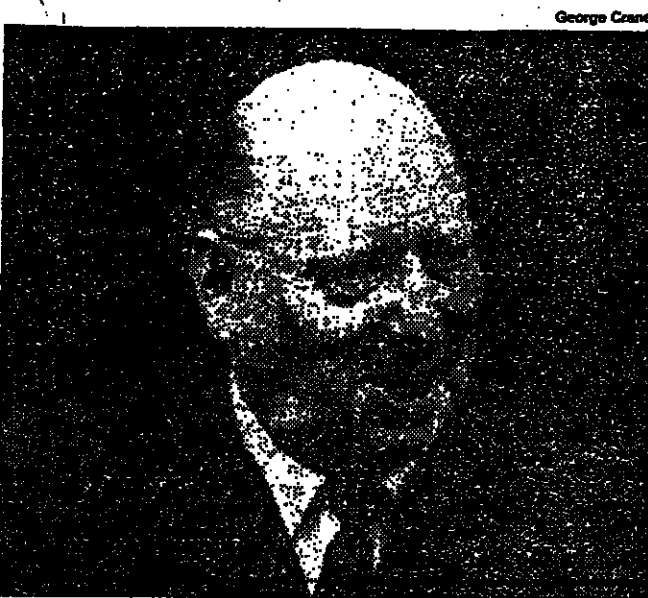
By Peter Wilson Smith

Important Budget charges allowing business to pay interest on loans net of corporation tax could be introduced if, as seems likely, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, heads proposals from the Grylls Committee. The proposals are receiving considerable support within the Government, not least from Mrs Thatcher who has agreed to meet the Grylls study group soon. Such a move would allow long-term loan to be paid net of corporation tax and would effectively halve the immediate interest cost to industry and greatly boost cash flow. At present, a company paying £10m of annual interest can offset this against profits before paying corporation tax but many companies are not getting this relief because they have no taxable profits. Under the Grylls proposal the £10m interest burden would be cut to £5m and there would be no relief for corporation tax. They will discuss proposals to boost industrial investment by encouraging longer-term lending by the banks. The meeting is another important victory for the Grylls group which is lobbying hard to have its proposals included in the forthcoming budget. The study group met Sir Geoffrey in November and has since had detailed talks with Treasury officials and there have been several meetings with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry and Mr Kenneth Baker, Industry Minister, who are both believed to be supporters. Mr Michael Grylls, chair-

### SDP man pleads for wage curbs

By Frances Williams

New policies to restrain wage rises and curb trade union powers are essential if unemployment is to be brought down without the risk of explosive inflation, Professor James Meade, the Nobel prize-winning economist, argues in a book published tomorrow. Professor Meade urges the use of tax and monetary policies to expand money demand in the economy at a steady rate high enough to permit output growth, combined with a decentralised incomes policy to ensure this is translated into more jobs rather than more inflation. He advocates the setting up of an independent arbitration commission which would judge pay awards by looking at their implications for employment. Professor Meade's views have influenced the emerging economic policies of the Social Democratic Party, of which he is a member, and his basic notion of making steady expansionary demand in some sense conditional on pay restraint is likely to feature in SDP policy. Curbing inflation, page 15



Lord Lew Grade at the High Court yesterday.

### Gill unlikely to get record handshake

By Philip Robinson and Paul Maidment

Australian Mr Robert Holmes a Court now looks certain to emerge as the victor in his last moving, but complex takeover of Lord's Grade's former company, Associated Communications Corporation, despite the late appearance of a rival. And after losing a High Court move yesterday, Mr Jack Gill, the dismissed ACC managing director is unlikely to get his record £500,000 compensation for loss of office which is part of a £750,000 golden handshake package. Mr Gill wanted to block any share transactions between his former fellow directors who had agreed to support him and Mr Holmes a Court until a vote was taken on his payout. But yesterday the High Court rejected his application. While the High Court was hearing evidence, Mr Holmes a Court's rival, Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of the Heron Corporation, announced it had now formally requested information on ACC's financial affairs as a step towards making a formal takeover bid. At present Mr Ronson's proposals value ACC at £42.5m. Meanwhile Mr Holmes a Court's advisers, Standard Bank and Chartered Bank, admitted that they had been contacted by another potential bidder. The bank refused to confirm whether the approach came from a millionaire publisher Mr Robert Maxwell who has already gone on record as saying he would be interested in bidding. It emerged yesterday afternoon during Mr Holmes a Court's first news conference that ACC was on the verge of insolvency at the time he was appointed to the board on December 17. His Bell Group, which is making the bid, has already guaranteed a reported £5m worth of bank borrowings from the Midland and is negotiating with and unspecified number of ACC bankers to take similar action. ACC's gross debt largely unsecured is currently £51m and rising. Mr Holmes a Court, who first bought into ACC last year, consistently said that he was never interested in making a full bid. But as a result of information given to him at that first board meeting he changed his mind. The shareholders will get a full explanation in the offer document which he says should be out in about 10 days. Mr Holmes a Court has now joined the Post Office pension fund in their legal action opposing the payout to Mr Gill. In the High Court yesterday, the events which led to the departure of Mr Gill as right hand man to Lord Grade after 25 years were disclosed for the first time.



### Coca-Cola in \$750m offer for Columbia

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Jan 19

The Coca-Cola Company is attempting to break into show business by making a \$750m (£395m) offer for Columbia Pictures Industries, one of Hollywood's most profitable film companies. A team of investment bankers met privately in Atlanta, Georgia yesterday to work out details of the agreement, which has not yet been confirmed, between the world's largest soft drinks company and the off-courtsed film-maker. On Wall Street, the proposed merger is regarded as a marriage "made in heaven" for a variety of reasons. The price, at \$74 a share for Columbia's 10.7 million outstanding shares, is regarded as right by investment analysts who believe Coca-Cola has more than enough cash and borrowing potential to close the deal. Perhaps more important is the close compatibility of the businesses of the two companies. Both are involved in non-durable consumer products which depend heavily on the ability to mass market from an ivory tower-like position. Mr Roy Barry, an analyst for Kidder Peabody, said: "It has become increasingly difficult to market soft drinks in recent years and this is the reason Coca-Cola is looking beyond its traditional business into the entertainment field for future growth potential. Mr Barry said. "Coke's new management team has seen the handwriting on the wall". Meanwhile, Columbia's business has blossomed in recent years when other film-makers have suffered reverses from multi-million dollar investments in box office flops. Columbia's management team of Mr Herbert Allen, the chairman; Mr Francis Vincent, the president and financial expert; and Mr Frank Price, artistic director, has produced hits such as *Kramer vs Kramer*, *Star Wars*, *Only When I Laugh*, *Stripes*, and *The Blue Lagoon*. Columbia plans to release a \$40m production later this year of the musical *Annie*, a hit both on Broadway and in London. Columbia has designated more than \$15m for promotion of the film which is expected to be both a financial and a box office success. The film company has also diversified its operations in recent years, moving into the fast-growing home entertainment business with video cassette and pay television subsidiaries. In addition, Columbia has signed a new agreement with Time Incorporated, owners of Home Box Office, under which its films will be shown exclusively until April 1984. It was both the diversity of its business and the growth potential of Columbia in cable television, for example, which attracted Coca-Cola to the company, analysts said.

## Oil prices plunging despite Opec deal

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

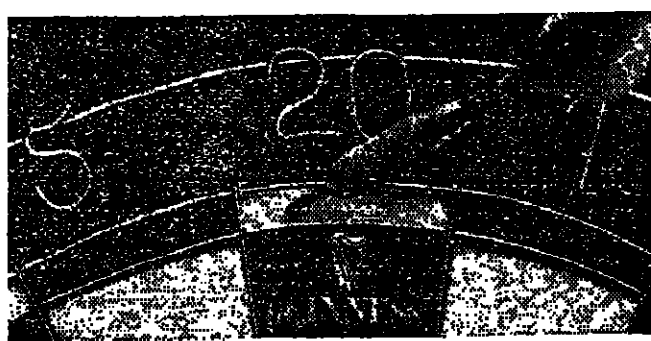
Spot market oil prices are continuing to decline, despite the severe winter particularly in the United States and Europe, and the big refining companies are now making losses as high as \$3 a barrel. According to the authoritative *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, sufficient time has elapsed for spot markets to begin reflecting the \$34 Opec price structure set in Geneva last October, but instead of rising, prices are plunging. Much of the cheaper \$32-a-barrel Saudi Arabian light crude has now worked through the refining system but the surplus is still large enough to prevent a recovery of spot market prices. Heavy snow falls and poor driving conditions have depressed demand for petrol and price wars have continued at garages throughout Britain, the Benelux countries, West Germany and Scandinavia. Commenting on the first two weeks of 1982, the journal says: "Oil companies were seen battling for market shares in a desperate effort to raise refinery runs to more cost efficient levels." Shell UK has blamed the depressed state of the market for its decision to close seven distribution terminals which result in 150 job losses by the end of 1983. Provisional figures for oil products demand in the United Kingdom last year show a drop to 66 million from 74 million tonnes for 1980 and 87 million tonnes for 1979. Last year's demand was the lowest since 1965. The journal says that since prices are now mounting on Opec's \$34 marker price, Saudi Arabia may be forced to limit its oil exports to fulfil its pledge to defend the price structure. Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said in an interview with the *Middle East Economic Survey* this week that the kingdom was prepared to allow oil output to fall below the current 8.5 million barrels a day although it did not plan a formal cut in production. He has stressed that a reduction to 6.2 million barrels a day would not create revenue problems, but *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* says that a more likely would be an initial reduction to 7.5 million barrels a day. Shaikh Yamani said the kingdom would allow market forces to determine the level of output necessary to defend the Opec marker price. Saudi oil experts now believe that a balance between oil supply and demand will not occur until the second half of this year, because of the economic recession in the United States. Shaikh Yamani predicted that the current Opec price freeze would be extended when demand recovery began and when oil no longer competed with fuel oil. "This could be around the end of this decade or in the nineties." The journal adds that European spot market prices offer a taste of good news to beleaguered refiners, and the continent now ranks as the most attractive market. Arabian light is now worth about \$32.70 a barrel for a Rotterdam refiner compared with \$32.25-\$32.50 east of Suez.

### Battle of the advertising giants

## Why Guinness is good for Marsh

By Margaret Pagano

Arthur Guinness decision to end its relationship after 13 years with J. Walter Thompson, the biggest advertising agency in the West, has left the future of the television agencies and the Bottle of Guinness supporters' Club in doubt and surprised the whole advertising industry. The £7m account has gone to Allen Brady and Marsh, the agency run by the theatrical Mr Peter Marsh, the former actor who is its chairman. Guinness will be good for Mr Marsh, bringing the agency a prestige account admired by others in the industry for its sophisticated image, despite the beer's traditionally down-market consumers. Slogans such as "Guinness is Good For You" and "My Goodness, My Guinness" go back to pre-war days when Guinness was the first beer to be advertised nationally. Speculation had been mounting within the industry that Guinness was looking for a change and Mr Marsh, the self-proclaimed adman of the 1980s was strongly tipped to pick up the account. The sudden manner, however, in which the change took place



was not expected. The move will undoubtedly result in a dramatic change of style for Guinness. His no-nonsense approach straight to the popular market of the C2 and D social groups has brought him a solid list of clients which include British Rail, the Jimmy Saville campaign, the "Listening" Midland Bank, F.W. Woolworths, the Milk Marketing Board, International Stores, and, more recently, Westabix. The agency employs 300 staff and claims it captured £16m of new business last year bringing its annual "billings" for 1982 to more than £70m. Mr Marsh's showbiz instinct is keen and it is unknown for him and Mr present.

Rod Allan, executive creative director and deputy chairman, to woo their clients with a song-and-dance routine as a forerunner of what is to come. The showman streak is something Mr Marsh is not ashamed to exploit in chasing business and in his own personal style, expressed in his fondness for extravagant cuff-links and gold jewelry. He takes to publicity and cameras as a natural. In a recent BBC documentary on advertising Mr Marsh was to be seen seated on a chair resembling a throne at his splendid home at Barnes, south-west London, suitably furnished with armchairs, figureheads and telescopes. Mr Ernest Saunders, who became managing director of Guinness, just three months ago, said that he chose ABM because he believes it can provide the fresh look that Guinness needs. Mr Jeremy Bullmore, chairman of JWT, and a friend of Mr Marsh for the last 20 years, says the agency is obviously stunned by the move and even more so by its suddenness. No attempts, he said, were made to ask JWT to change its work or re-

## Hickson & Welch

(HOLDINGS) PLC

CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS AND TIMBER PRESERVERS

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for 1981

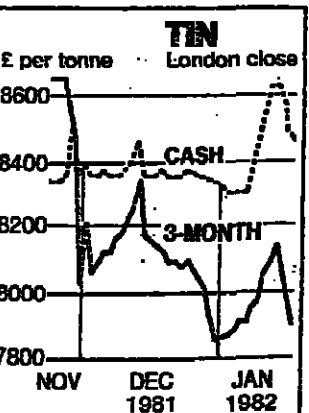
Year ended 30 September	1981	1980
Turnover	£90,873	£93,296
Export sales of the U.K. companies	29,300	28,800
Group profit before tax	6,275	6,475
Earnings for ordinary shareholders	3,088	3,242
Total ordinary dividend	1,450	1,450
Earnings - pence per share	16	17
Investment in new capital expenditure	3,445	4,236

- \* Profits from chemical operations were lower with conditions in the six months to 31 March, 1981 particularly difficult.
- \* Despite cost saving measures, the chemical side continued to be affected by increased costs of energy and raw materials, and the effect of the strong pound on exports in the first half of the year.
- \* Profits from timber preservation activities improved, particularly from the overseas subsidiaries. Activity in fencing materials, fire retardants and other specialised products has increased.
- \* Future prospects should provide opportunities for an expansion of business in timber preservation and building materials, but in present conditions no more than a modest improvement can be expected in the chemical operations.
- \* Recommended final dividend 5p per share for 1981/82 making a total of 7.5p for the year - the same as last year.

CASTLEFORD • WEST YORKSHIRE

### COMMODITIES

On the London Metal Exchange, tin developed an easier tone as hedging sales found buyers unresponsive. Three months standard grade tin traded down to £7895 a tonne by the close, down £70 on the day. The copper market was steady in sympathy with gold. Three months higher grade copper ended the day £8 up to £389.25 a tonne. Other metals were basically steady.



### TODAY

Basic Wage Rate Index (December)  
Average Earnings (November)  
Construction Orders (November)  
Department of Energy announce date for public inquiry into building of PWR nuclear reactor at Sizewell, Suffolk  
MEPC - AGM  
CBI Council monthly meeting  
Trust House Forte - finals  
Anglia TV - finals  
Tate & Lyle - finals

### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 545.9 up 11.2  
FT 100 63.61 up 0.65  
FT all share 314.56 up 5.04  
Bargains 20,387

### CURRENCIES

● Sterling had another good day, helped by receding fears of a miners' strike and further easing of the dollar. At one point the pound reached \$1.8990.

**LONDON CLOSE**  
Sterling \$1.8950, up 120 points  
Index 91.5, up 0.7  
DM 4.35, up 200 points  
Fr.F 11.07, up 17 points  
Yen 425.5, up 100 points  
**Dollar**  
Index 108.7, down 0.4  
DM 2.2905, down 82 points  
Gold \$375.00, up \$3

### MONEY MARKETS

● Rates eased across the board as the Bank of England lowered its intervention level for the second consecutive day, buying Band 1 bills at 14 1/4 per cent against 14 1/2 per cent on Monday.  
**Domestic rates:**  
Base rates 14 1/4%  
3-month interbank 15 1/4-15 1/2%  
**Euro-currency rates**  
3-month dollar 14 1/4-14 1/2%  
3-month DM 10 1/4-10 1/2%  
3-month Fr.F 16 1/2-16 3/4%







# BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

## PEOPLE

### A far cry from the Ivory Tower

In an unprecedented intervention in political affairs, Sir Andrew Huxley, physiologist and president of the Royal Society and a Nobel prizewinner, and Professor Owen Chadwick, historian and president of the British Academy, have thrown the weight of their respective



Sir Andrew Huxley (left) and Professor Owen Chadwick

organizations in support of the many scientists, engineers and scholars locked up or muzzled by the Police generals. They have sent their message of full support to the Polish Academy of Sciences for a rapid restoration of senior researchers that has operated freely for 20 years between the two countries.

Researchers from Poland can work up to four months in a university, research institute or industrial centre of their choice with the Royal Society's help. Before the military takeover, last year included a botanist, chemist, ecologist, metallurgist, organic chemist, palaeontologist and electronics specialist.

Sir Andrew has also circulated his concern about the interruption to collaboration in research to the two most important umbrella organizations for world science — the International Council of Scientific Unions, which has 64 national members including the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the American National Academy of Sciences, and the International Academic Union.

● And good morning to you on this, the first day of the new-style, high-rise "People's column." As its name implies, the new edifice is about "people," although I must say that I never thought of anybody who crossed the threshold of the old, low-rise Business Diary as anything less than human. Merely so long as I am manager of this new column I will stand no messing about from that lot on the ground floor in New Appointments. They can rattle ice cubes and pop champagne corks all they like as they celebrate their new life, but I would ask them to respect the other guests in the column and pipe down a bit after midnight.

### The Jones boy



John Elliott, unlike Lord Grade, he beat off Robert Holmes a Court

The latest pushy Australian entrepreneur to hit town is John Elliott, aged 39, who in the past nine years has transformed the old-established sleepy food manufacturer Henry Jones into one of Australia's fastest growing companies.

While "compatriot" Robert Holmes a Court, spent yesterday explaining why he was taking over Lord Grade's troubled ACC empire, Elliott was trying to convince the institutions of the potential he sees from the year's merger with the pastoral combine Elder Smith, which catapulted Elliott into control of the sixteenth largest group Down Under, controlling assets of around A\$1,000m (£58m).

Elliott, who sports ex-Test cricketer Bob Cowper on his board, is at pains to emphasize that he is not in the same mould as Holmes a Court — whom he beat off in last year's battle for Elder Smith or Alan Bond or fast rising newcomer Ron Briceley. They, Elliott says, are quintessentially stock market operators more like our own Jim Slater or John Bendley, while he sees himself as a sort of Australian Weinstock or James Hanson — someone who builds up companies through sheer management skills.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

On the retirement of Mr John Bayfield as chairman, Mr Tom Holborn, the managing director becomes chairman and managing director of Tobler Suchard.

Mr John E. B. Lee has been appointed a director of Robin Marlar & Associates.

Mr K. G. Wilkinson, engineering director of British Airways, has been appointed a part-time member of the British Rail Engineering Board.

Mr B. G. Levy and Mr J. S. W. Martin have been appointed directors of B. Elliott.

Ross Davies

James Meade, 1977 Nobel Prize winner, argues for a new approach to wage-fixing

## How to achieve full employment without stoking up inflation

The economy of the United Kingdom is suffering from mass unemployment and from under-used capital equipment. At the same time there are a thousand and one useful things which these unused resources of men and machines might produce — goods and services for the underprivileged at home and abroad, improvements in public services and amenities, the renewal and improvement of capital equipment for future industrial production, a general rise in standards of personal consumption.

Our problems are frequently ascribed to the world recession or to the oil crisis or to some other set of external and inevitable events. There is, of course, an element of truth in this; but it is to be seen from the whole of the truth. There is a frightening tendency for a release of attitudes back to the old-fashioned view that booms and slumps are acts of God which have to be accepted, and that during a depression one must simply wait patiently for better times.

But the present world recession is in fact due primarily to the unwillingness of the main developed countries to accept the need to adopt Keynesian expansionary policies because of their fear of inflation.

We need to change our attitudes and find some way of maintaining Keynesian full employment without a constant of rapid and explosive inflation of money costs and prices.

To find such a cure is important not only for its own sake, that is to say, for the avoidance of the wastes of unemployment and idle resources; it is important also as a sine qua non for tackling many of the other basic 'real' problems which confront us such as helping in the development and enrichment of the poor underdeveloped countries of the world.

There is a set of policies and institutions which will successfully maintain full employment without a rapid inflation of money prices and costs.

One line of approach (the Orthodox Keynesian) is to adopt measures for the expansion of money expenditures on goods and services to the extent necessary to provide a market for all the products of a fully employed economy. If this is found to cause a rapid inflation of money wages and costs, then some form of centralised Keynesian demand-management policy which expands the level of money expenditures will expand the volume of goods and services purchased rather than the prices at which they are bought.



Union bashing is no cure, but should some of their immunities be curbed?

An alternative strategy (the New Keynesian approach) is to design a set of monetary and budgetary policies to keep total money expenditures on goods and services on a steady, moderate upward growth path, and against this background of a steady growth in the money demand for the products of labour to design a set of wage-fixing institutions which will promote the volume of employment in each firm or other employing agency.

This involves raising the wage rate wherever there is a shortage of labour and a need to attract more labour to the firm in question, and to restrain any rise in wages wherever there are already workers available who can be taken into additional employment. With a steady increase of, say, 5 per cent per annum in the total money demand for the products of labour, the average wage rate would be steadily bid up as each typical employer sought to find the labour needed to satisfy the increased demand for his products.

A main reason for preferring the New Keynesian to the Orthodox Keynesian approach is the fact that the latter implies a centralized incomes policy with the danger of an inefficient and unacceptable regime of bureaucratic control, whereas the former can be based more easily on a less centralized and more flexible system of wage-fixing.

There is, of course, little to be gained by designing wage-fixing arrangements to promote employment unless this is against a background of a sustained steady expansion in the demand for the products of labour. On the other hand, it would be pointless and possibly catastrophic to restrict the expansion of total money expenditures to a very moderate rate unless wage-

fixing arrangements were moulded appropriately to match this moderate growth in the total money demand for labour.

So financial policies must be designed to keep total money demand for the products of labour on a steady growth path. We must formulate effective demand-management policies which successfully provide a steady rate of growth in the total demand for labour.

But that done — the methods for so doing would require another article — can we design wage-fixing arrangements that would promote employment in these circumstances?

I believe that the solution is most likely to be found by different lines of approach.

First, labour co-operatives, labour-capital partnerships, or profit-sharing schemes could help to solve the problem of stagnation in so far as it implied that pay would be received as a share of the concern's revenue from sales rather than being set in advance independently as a cost of production.

The contribution to the cure of stagnation through this means would be limited. It would have no contribution to make in the setting of rates of pay for the large range of civil servants members of the defence forces, and similar public employment, and it would not help in the cure of stagnation in the case of large-scale monopolies, including the main nationalized industries.

It could be effective only where competition between the cooperative concerns was active and where the setting up of new competing cooperative concerns was relatively easy; and in capital-intensive industries it would need to take the form of partnerships that included the owners of capital as well as the workers.

Nevertheless in the case of small-scale private competitive sectors of the economy it could make a significant contribution to the cure of stagnation, quite apart from any other advantages to be gained from the extension of the general principle of participation in decision making.

Secondly, while no part of the cure is to be found by crude and extreme trade union bashing to restore competition between individual workers in the labour market (institutional wage-fixing through trade unions that they could get the organized body is an essential feature of the modern free-enterprise economy), competitive forces do have an extremely important role to play.

Some of the existing immunities of labour monopolies should be modified in so far as they are such as to protect one group of high-paid workers from competition of the other less privileged workers. We should encourage a whole range of measures that would enable low-paid workers to move into high-paid occupations, industries or localities.

Such measures are desirable in themselves in so far as they lead to a more efficient use of labour and to an equalizing tendency between the high paid and low paid, but they will also help to curb excessive inflationary upward pressures on wage rates by the previously highly protected groups.

Third, assuming that trade unions must be left with substantial monopolistic powers if they are effectively to fulfil their wage-fixing functions; but that such powers can be used to excess, some method of control must be found. The solution is not through a

centralized, authoritarian setting of rates of pay. That is doomed to failure. But a central body which issued a guideline "norm" of the rate of pay increases that could in general be paid without involving undue inflation or unemployment or which determined a similar basic pay award would serve a useful purpose.

Finally what we must search for is a system for the settlement of disputes between employers and employees and employed about rates of pay by reference to an independent arbitral body or pay commission, the awards of such a body being based primarily upon the principle of setting rates of pay for the promotion of employment in the sectors under examination.

There are a number of variations of the provisions in any such arbitral system. But the general principles are these:

● That any bargain freely struck between employers and employees would be permitted.

● That any unresolved dispute about rates of pay could be taken by either party to arbitration.

● That (subject to limitations on the amount of any change of pay) the arbitral body's award should be designed primarily to promote employment in the sector of the economy under examination; and that industrial action taken in opposition to the terms of an award should not be illegal but would be accompanied by penalties that would reduce the bargaining power of the party that took such action.

The hope would be that the knowledge by both parties that they could get an effective support of such an award would induce them in general to seek agreement on wage claims that were likely to conform to the employment-promotion criterion of the arbitral body.

It is recognized that a solution along these lines would be extremely difficult political problems. Whether or not a solution can be found on these lines depends not merely on the construction of suitable institutions (important and necessary though that is), but above all on a change of attitude on the part of the great body of people, employers, and employees, who are concerned.

The matter cannot be put right simply by legislation; the general acceptance by the great majority of trade unionists and others of the idea that this would provide a much more sensible way of conducting affairs is an essential condition for its success. It could not possibly be imposed from above on an unresponsive population.

The author is Emeritus Professor of Political Economy at the University of Cambridge. His latest book, *Stagnation, Volume 1, Wage-Fixing* is published tomorrow by George Allen & Unwin, hardback £15, paperback £5.95p.

## Business Editor's Column

### Large debts, but plenty of assets

ACC's future ownership now appears to have been settled. The shouting Mr Holmes a Court has enough of the voting and non-voting shares to put him firmly in the driving seat from which only a bomb or some behind-the-scenes dealing could dislodge him.

But insofar as outsiders can judge from the paucity of information currently available about ACC's financial position, Mr Holmes a Court has got his hands on some very valuable assets. The sort of money Mr Gerald Ronson is talking about in his £424m conditional approach does not seem to hold a candle to ACC's underlying worth. It is hardly surprising that two asset spotters of undervalued assets are scrapping over ACC.

Few concrete financial details emerged yesterday about ACC's predicament. Mr Holmes a Court's indications that its finances were in a far more perilous position than earlier feared. Any predator would be saying the same in his shoes.

However, Mr Holmes a Court seems to be well advanced with sufficient asset sales to cover almost the whole £36m purchase price. Classic Cinemas has virtually found a buyer which could bring in £7-10m; and while the music publishing side (Northern Songs, especially) is not finding such a ready taker, there are few doubts that it will eventually go for about £20m. Along with the Los Angeles assets at ACC, the company could realise upwards of £30m of assets with no trouble.

Set against that, borrowings are £51m and "rising" according to yesterday's remarks. But analysts are talking in terms of a conservatively assessed value of at least 100p after the property revaluation even after taking account of this year's likely loss of £14m or so. Other estimates go as high as 150p but that is taking a sunny view of the group's potential. Which ever figure you take, the 66p a share now on the table looks a snip.

Non-voting shareholders clearly have a strong case for feeling aggrieved at this, when the board could have probably won a better offer had it hung up the for sale sign. Disenfranchised shareholders elsewhere will remember the ACC lesson.

## Markets

### Odd behaviour?

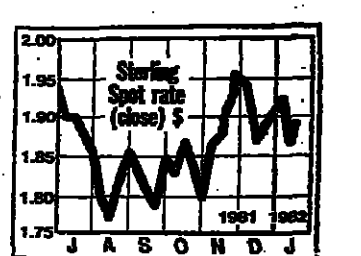
Financial markets are forever perverse, inconsistent or what you will. Alternatively, they are constantly setting traps for the unwary. Certainly, the behaviour of the dollar and dollar interest rates this week have not been consistent with what one might have expected after last week's exceptionally large leap in the United States money supply.

On this basis, it is possibly reasonable to expect the behaviour this week as the result of short-term profit-taking rather than the start of a major downward break. Be that as it may, it is a development that has been convenient to the British monetary authorities. Together with the boost to sterling from the receding threat of a miners' strike, it has meant not only that the Bank has not had to intervene to support sterling, but so aggravate money market shortages still further — but that it has in fact been able to move in exactly the opposite direction and go along with a modest reduction in bill rates.

In part, the acceptance of lower bill rates is simply a way of encouraging companies into bill, rather than overdraft, financing, thus keeping a good flow of new bills into the market for the authorities to buy in the face of persisting shortages.

It is probably a little too early to say whether the authorities would be happy to see the general level of interest rates drop a further half point. With an easy Budget only seven weeks away now, the window for

letting interest rates drop a notch may be closing fairly rapidly if political advantage is a major consideration. But they may be getting increasingly worried that the tentative economic recovery may abort.



## Tin Council

### A crucial week

Many eyes will be focused on the International Tin Council when its meeting opens in London today.

Strong buying since last July has pushed up the cash price of LME tin by almost £2,000 to about £5,500 a tonne. Not only that, it has opened a wide and unprecedented backwash of some £300. Producers, led by Malaysia, Arabs and others, have been cited as the forces behind a sustained and powerful market move which has already lasted longer than many thought possible. But whoever it may be, there can be no doubt that the producers benefit.

They benefit in two ways. First, higher prices obviously mean higher income. Second, and more germane to the ITC meeting, high prices support the producers' argument that the metal has been undervalued and that consumer resistance last year to raising intervention levels was unjustified. Such arguments will dominate the meeting.

The chances are, however, that they will not — indeed cannot — be resolved. In one respect the consumers' argument has possibly been strengthened: if the market is being manipulated, so could say we only have to wait and the producers will learn the error of their ways. At the very least, the condition of the market will sour relations between the two sides and make agreement much harder to reach.

## MEPC

### Raising cash

As befits our second largest property company, the £62m cash call from MEPC is only the second biggest property rights issue being marketed by the sector giant, Land Securities, in June 1980 with a £108m fund raising.

Even so, there will surely be one or two disconcerted shareholders in MEPC who will turn up for the noon annual meeting at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge today, to press the directors about the need to deal such a blow to their wallets.

For there is no doubting the scale of MEPC's ambitions, nor of the size of its present empire: gross assets after the recent revaluation amounted to more than £900m. Since the last rights issue in June 1979 the development programme has had a capital cost of roughly £120m; developments at home that should be completed this year will take £44m; and longer term projects both here, and in Australia and the United States, are already scheduled to cost a cool £20m.

MEPC was one of those property companies that went to the brink in 1974-75, so the present surge of expansion could arouse unpleasant memories from a portfolio as vast as £900m surely some low yielding assets could have been disposed of in order to pay for expansion elsewhere.

MEPC has had a wonderful recovery since the dark days, but the fact remains that the latest rights issue (will there be another in two years?) knocked an already weak share price 11p to 214p yesterday. The issue, of one for five at 188p, dilutes net asset value from 373p to 340p.

## High-fliers look for greener pastures

### AT WORK: ACCOUNTANCY

Adrienne Gleeson

In a quiet sort of way the more conservative chartered accountants are rather pleased with the report which the English Institute produced this week, on education and training within the profession. It resolves a dilemma which has plagued the membership for the past couple of years.

The dilemma arises because, although the would-be chartered accountants (unlike the certified accountants, or the cost and management accountants) must serve their time with firms in public practice, a very high proportion of them move on to other things once their training contracts are completed and their exams are out of the way. In particular they move onto financial management with commercial and industrial companies. Around one half of the members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales work in industry and commerce and related fields.

In recent years, however, existing financial management within industrial and commercial companies has started to gripe about the quality of these recruits. It wasn't that they were lacking in academic excellence, or practical experience. But they tended to have very little knowledge of what industry was about, and flinched at their contact with the real world, in which decisions had to be made and relationships established with individuals who were not their intellectual peers.

So said their critics. So, in particular, said the 100 Group, an association of the finance directors of some of the biggest companies in the

country. Being themselves chartered accountants (it is a prerequisite for membership), the members of the 100 Group might be presumed to know what they were talking about.

They thought — and said — that chartered accountants were going to have to face a lot more competition for top management jobs in future, not only from their cost and management-trained colleagues, but also from graduates of new disciplines, such as business studies. Such graduates, they said, would be able to offer not only the breadth of understanding which training with a large firm of accountants can provide, but some understanding of the problems and processes of management as well.

These criticisms hurt, because they hit the large accountancy firms where they were vulnerable. They rely on a high intake of bright graduates, who are trained at considerable expense and make themselves really useful from the second year of their training onwards. Some of those graduates will want to move on anyway as soon as they are qualified, and have sought the qualification only as a means to other things, or a respectable reason for deferring more permanent decisions.

Some will be tempted away, in the 10 years after qualification, by the prospect of higher rewards and more responsibility in the world outside. Some can be persuaded that the grass on the

other side of the fence is greener. And the rest — the best, if all goes according to the chartered accountants' plans — can be induced to work like hell in the expectation that they themselves will, in due course, receive a partnership.

Any suggestion that an accountancy qualification might not lead on to higher — or at any rate other — things, might scare off half these applicants and the chances are that many of them would be high quality people, just the sort of men and women accountancy firms can profitably use, even if it is only for a year or two after qualification.

And there were other problems, too, partly because of their attempts to adjust their art to eccentric economic conditions (double figure inflation, for instance), and partly because of the spread of standards, accountancy is becoming an ever more complex and diffuse discipline.

How were the recruits to be expected to cope? Should they know the lot? Could they be considered qualified to practise without it? But if they must know the lot, how long would it take to impart the knowledge? And if an extra year had to be tacked on to the training period, might it not frighten off the best of the candidates? Might it not, likewise, frighten off some of their potential employers — the smaller accountancy firms, who at present train a relatively small proportion of recruits, but have been becoming increasingly restless at the burdens which such attempts at training impose?

Through all of these dilemmas the institute's report — subtitled "a policy framework for the future" — cuts



Studying accounting... but will he understand the problems and processes of management

a neat and careful swathe. There are one or two radical suggestions. If and when the members decide that it would be in the best interests of the institute, there could be "an extension of authority to train outside public practice".

That means that some accountants who receive their training in industry and commerce might, at some point in the future, be able to qualify as members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. "Very Welcome," says Mr Wilson, now chief executive of the Delta Group, who was chairman of the 100 Group when the first rumblings of discontent made themselves heard.

John Clames, finance director of Allied Lyons and the 100 Group's present chairman, agrees: "We think that certain large companies could provide a better training than accountancy firms," he says. But he also says, ominously, that one of the most promising of the recent

recruits to Allied Lyons' finance department is a business graduate who probably won't bother to qualify.

The report's specific proposals are modest, and welcomed as such. "They represent," says the partner in charge of training at one of the "Big Eight" accountancy firms, "a very healthy belief that the profession should do what the profession thinks is sensible in its own interests".

The dud recruits with which the profession is plagued should be weeded out early with the help of a new Test of Accounting Aptitude. But the basic training should, the report says, be kept basic, and the training period should not be extended. In order to cope with the increasing complexity of the profession, this basic training should be supplemented with "Continuing Professional Education", and post-qualification work experience should also be regularized.

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# Channel Nine on cloud nine

## Royal St George's stages Open again

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Rugby Union

# England door opens up again for Scott and Blakeway

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

The call sent out yesterday for John Scott to join some uncommitted squad training at Stourbridge next Monday evening implies that, although the Cardiff captain No 8 has yet to play a game this season, England's selectors must be thinking of bringing him back to their side for the international against Ireland at Twickenham on February 6.

The Gloucester prop, Philip Blakeway, cornerstone of England's scrum since 1978, has also been invited to Stourbridge, along with 15 other forwards and the two scrum halves, Steve Smith and Nigel Melville.

Things have moved swiftly for Scott since I reported yesterday that he was hoping to start his comeback with a game for Cardiff's second team on Saturday. His club selectors have had the confidence to throw him in at the deep end and an invitation to lead their first XV against Seville Rangers in Dublin on Friday, on the eve of the Ireland-Wales international.

Scott, who has won 20 caps, the last two of them in Argentina, has been training hard for a month after operations on both ankles which kept him inactive in the early part of the season. I did not think that he could be expected to attain sufficient match-hardness in time for the Irish match, but a three-week gap, rather than a fortnight, in the championship programme would mean him to get in at least two senior games before hand.

It may be that the selectors, worried enough by the lack of English control among the fringes at Murrayfield, would be prepared to pick him against Ireland even if they did not think him wholly prepared.

A week ago, the selectors surely were thinking of Scott in terms of the last two championship matches, which were in Paris, and against Wales at Twickenham. Events in the drawn Scottish encounter, however, have reminded them forcibly of what his control and expertise can deliver close in.

After missing the tour of Argentina because of recurring back trouble, Scott returned last season, Blakeway returned to the fold in November in good time to be picked as captain of the South and South West side against the Wallabies. He had to

retire at half-time in that match with a broken nose and double vision, and when the selectors came to announce their side to play Australia, they said they were not satisfied about his fitness.

That seemed a harsh judgment on a player who by general consent is without peer in the game. He is a tight head scrumman, and Blakeway himself was in no doubt about his readiness. However, this unforgivingly cheerful trouper remarked yesterday that he absolutely delighted to be back in the reckoning, and that he would love to have another opportunity.

Blakeway is playing for Gloucester, and he is absolutely delighted to be back in the reckoning, and that he would love to have another opportunity.

The third round of the John Player Cup on Saturday — his first game since his nose was put out of joint.

Midfielder that staunch Bristol and England flanker, has had some hard news to bear in the deep end and an invitation to lead their first XV against Seville Rangers in Dublin on Friday, on the eve of the Ireland-Wales international.

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Flattened: Ogunbiyi of Charing Cross finds Morris too much of a burden

## Watkinson for Free

By Gordon Allan

Royal Free 19 Charing Cross 9  
Royal Free beat Charing Cross by five penalty goals and a try to three penalties in the first round of the Hospitals Cup competition at Twickenham yesterday. Next Tuesday, they play Westminster at the King's College Hospital ground at Dog Kennel Hill, East

off his own performance in style with the conversion.  
It was a typical cup match, typical, at any rate, of the first round. Dedication and enthusiasm were loudly and lustily in evidence, skill less so. It was even as well. There was much admirable catching and kicking by both full backs, and all four half backs knew a thing or two about tactical use of the boot, even if, for much of the time, it took them nowhere special.

## Moseley can call on Jeavons

Nick Jeavons, the England flanker, returns to the Moseley side for their John Player Cup third-round game with Harrogate at the Readings on Saturday.

Moseley have twice been in the cup final — losing on each occasion — but Harrogate, holders of the Yorkshire Cup, are newcomers to the John Player tournament.

Moseley hopes of match practice in the West Country last weekend came to nothing and they will receive a severe test from Harrogate, leaders of the Northern merit table and runners-up in the former England international, Peter Squires and Roger Shackleton, in their back division.

The cup holders, Leicester, will wait for fitness checks on two of their England internationals before naming a side for their game against Harrogate. Leicester, however, Peter Folkeson is expected to be fit after sustaining a knock in England's game with Scotland at Murrayfield but the full back, "Duffy" Hare, who injured a knee in Sunday's game at Torquay, missed Monday night's training to receive treatment.

Mon's Bean, who included the Ascent Stakes and the Northumberland Plate among his victories on the flat, won as he liked when he made his first appearance over hurdles at Plumpton and may have too much class for his younger rival, who impressed when cantering home from Marine over course and distance, earlier this month.

## Barbarians celebrate centenary

The Barbarians, who may be considered the world's best amateur team, have been invited to help celebrate the centenary of the seven-a-side game at Murrayfield on April 8, next year.

## Prost fastest in practice

Kyalami, Jan 19 — The French driver Alain Prost, in his turbo-charged Renault, improved on earlier times here yesterday to set an unofficial track record of 1m 57.4sec in practice for Saturday's South African Grand Prix.

## Recruitment Opportunities

Surveyors Publications a subsidiary of a RICS Company are looking for TWO ASSISTANTS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of BARRY (INDIVIDUAL) Limited, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom, the Liquidator of the above-named company, being PHILIP MONACK, FCA, Liquidator, do hereby give notice that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of the Liquidator, 12 Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA, on Wednesday, 27th day of January, 1982, at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering the proposed voluntary arrangement of the company and for the purpose of voting on the proposed voluntary arrangement of the company.

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Applications are invited from experienced persons with a proven record of ability and integrity to take up the post of Personal Secretary to the Company Secretary.

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Please apply in writing, giving full details of education and business experience to:

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Must have excellent secretarial skills and a proven record of ability and integrity to take up the post of Personal Secretary to the Company Secretary.

The position is demanding and offers an excellent salary.

We are a building construction and development group and the successful candidate would be based at our head office at Woodford.

A second language, French or German and experience in insurance matters would be useful too. Please write to, or telephone Mrs C. Barrow for an application form.

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**Private Secretary**  
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secretary to handle  
his personal and  
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Skylark, a leading international  
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hand and word processing  
essential. Salary: £7,500  
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Residential property by Baron Phillips

A cheerful Spring is in the air

Morpeth and Clacton are the unlikely towns the first in Northumberland, the other in Essex, which appear to be bringing a ray of light to an otherwise gloomy residential market, according to the latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' quarterly report on house prices.

Estate agents in both towns are reporting a more buoyant market than almost anywhere else. Dudley Charlton & Partners of Morpeth, say they are seeing price increases for modern detached houses in the £38,000 to £40,000 range where demand is quite strong. Ernest Johnson & Company of Clacton, say good-quality houses and bungalows are in short supply and their prices are rising.

While, to adapt the saying, two swallows do not make a summer, the survey's overall conclusion indicates that possibly the slide in house prices has halted. Fewer agents are reporting declining prices while, as I have noted, there are pockets of increased activity and marginally higher prices.

At the same time, some agents say fewer houses are coming onto the market as owners hope for a more cheerful spring. About two-thirds of the agents who took part in the survey indicate that prices have stabilized.

Demand remains strongest for pre-1919 terraced houses, which generally are cheap enough to attract first-time buyers. In the north, the market for new homes is particularly buoyant, where one-fifth of agents taking part in the survey indicate only small price increases.

Mr John Thomas, the Royal Institution spokesman on house prices, commented: "Buyers are, it seems, responding to the widespread publicity for a continuing buyers' market. On this evidence, prospects for a



This fully restored and modernized property in Tregunter Road, London SW10, has come on to the market through Aylesford, the Kings Road agents, who are asking £750,000. It has four principal bedroom suites and four main reception rooms all of which have been lovingly restored by the present owner during the past three years. Unusually for a central London property, it has an extensive garden 140ft deep.

more lively market in 1982 are more encouraging for sellers who are at present finding difficulty in selling. This is the first optimistic sign we have had for months. The Times/Halifax index of house prices indicated that prices were, indeed, on the move again. But there must be a lot of catching up before any real progress is made.

While estate agents are feeling a little more optimistic, this is the time of year when many lobbyists' thoughts turn to the Budget. It is only a few weeks away and over the next fortnight many submissions will be made to the Chancellor.

The property market could do with some encouragement from Sir Geoffrey Howe. It is understood some serious thought is being given to easing the burden of stamp duty on buyers. Statistically, one in two purchasers has to pay stamp

duty compared with only one in six in 1974. Originally it was a form of luxury tax and eight years ago was levied on the purchase of every house over £15,000; the threshold was increased to £20,000 in 1980.

There is speculation in the building industry that the threshold may be raised again this year by as much as £30,000, with an upward drift of the bands. Only houses over £45,000 would incur the full 2 per cent duty now levied on property costing more than £35,000.

Builders argue that by raising the threshold life is made considerably easier for first-time buyers specifically and, of course, cuts moving costs generally. It has been claimed that some buyers are put off simply because of the additional cost of stamp duty.

For example, anyone paying just over £25,000 incurs a duty of £700 and in the £100,000-plus market, figures become astronomical.

Any relaxation of the duty would help to stimulate the lower end of the market, which in turn would help people selling medium-priced property. Many people believe that easing stamp duty fits in with Government policy of encouraging home ownership.

But the biggest stimulus to the market would come from any measure the Chancellor might take to bring down interest rates. When mortgage rates moved up to 15 per cent last autumn, demand was dampened and many builders brought in subsidised mortgage schemes to keep sales rolling.

More activity in the housing market would bring back to the economy a far greater confidence and, conversely, any measures which get the economy moving again would benefit the property market. Confidence is the key to the present parlous state of the property market.

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Taunton 9 miles, Wellington 2 miles, M4 5 miles.  
A Georgian country house in well-established gardens with further land available if required.  
3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, oil central heating, kitchen/breakfast room, garage for 3 cars, stabling, outbuildings, garden, grounds, woodland, paddocks available if required. Cottage with 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom.  
£120,000 Freehold with the cottage and garden (with about 15 acres available additionally).  
Joint agents: Stage, Wellington. Tel: (082347) 2822 and Humberts, 17 Hammet Street, Taunton.  
Tel: (0823) 88484 (1175568/SAH)

6 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3DB.  
Telephone: 01-242 3121 Telex: 27444

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LARGE OLD STYLE HOUSE  
In Highgate, N.1, 5 bed-rooms, 5 reception, 2 bath, 2 toilet, gas C.H., 5/6 grannery cottage in large garden, 1 bed, lounge, kitchen, dining room, bathroom, C.H.  
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POOLE, DORSET  
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**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY**  
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According to ability. Age limit 35. To assist on a variety of interesting and varied projects. This is a non-union firm with a friendly atmosphere. High intelligence and good sense of humour are essential.

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Protests and demonstrations against "Super Phoenix" began seven years ago. The most serious was in 1977.



whether it would prove too demanding for learners. But the Air Force reported 10 years later that it had emerged with the best safety record of any supersonic plane in service—an ironic comment in view of Monday's tragedy.

In 1971 similar questions were asked about the Red Arrows when four pilots died during a mid-air collision of two of their Gnat trainers during training. The Red Arrows continued, but dropped the manoeuvre called Russian Roulette.

Together the Red Arrows have lost eight aircraft and six pilots since their formation.



Four teenagers were acquitted of raping and kidnapping a girl, aged 15, after they told Lincoln Crown Court that they thought she was willing to go for a joy ride and have sexual intercourse.

Canada	12.54	Frankfurt	0.52	Belin	f 9.16	Toronto	
Costa Rica	6.43	Jakarta	25.45	Ottawa		Yunis	r 12.54
France	-9.16	Johnneshburg	25.77	Peking	s 9.48	Vancouver	r 14.57
Germany	19.66	Las Palmas	20.68	Perth	s 29.84	Venice	fy 1.34
Guatemala	25.77	Lisbon	13.55	Prague	c -7.19	Vilnius	c -8.18
Holland	12.54	London	fy -2.78	Reykjavik	c -2.28	Warsaw	s -2.25
India		Luxembourg	1.37	Rhodes	f 16.61	Washington	
Italy				Riyadh	f 18.64	Zurich	s -6.21